



*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, NOVEMBER 21, 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 MacNeil -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 24, 2017 A5
6. Consent Agenda Items
 - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017 A6.1
 - 6.2 Approved Minutes of the Staff Wellness Committee Meeting of May 30, 2017 A6.2
 - 6.3 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of September 7, 2017 A6.3
 - 6.4 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of September 27, 2017 A6.4
 - 6.5 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of October 4, 2017 A6.5
 - 6.6 Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange A6.6
 - 6.7 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7 and F8.1

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program C1
St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby
2. Financial Reports -
 - 2.1 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2016-2017 C2.1
 - 2.2 Financial Report as at October 31, 2017 C2.2

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence -
2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended -
3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action -

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| 4. | Trustee Information | |
| 4.1 | Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – November 7, 2017 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 | Calendar of Events – December 2017 | D4.2 |
| 4.3 | OCSTA Information – November 3, 10 & 17, 2017 | D4.3 |
| 4.4 | Ministry of Education Letter to Chairs – Independent Review of Student Assessment and Reporting | D4.4 |
| 4.5 | Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board – December 5, 2017 – 6:00 p.m. | - |
| 4.6 | December Committee of the Whole – December 5, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. | - |
| 4.7 | Annual Faith Formation for Priests, Trustees, Administrators & Chaplains – December 13, 2017 | - |
5. Open Question Period
(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.)

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
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 24, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 24, 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 Fera.

2. Roll Call

Chair MacNeil noted that Trustee Charbonneau and Trustee Nieuwesteeg asked to be excused and Trustee Burtnik joined electronically.

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 Tummillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Pat Rocca**, 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 Fera
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of October 24, 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 of September 26, 2017

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 26, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Sicoli requested Items F7 and F8 be held.

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 10, 2017 and Consideration of Recommendations

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of October 10, 2017, as presented.

6.1.1 Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3), as presented.

6.1.2 Education Research Policy (800.5)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Education Research Policy (800.5), as presented.

6.1.3 Student Fees Policy (301.11)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Fees Policy (301.11), as presented.

6.2 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of June 7, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of June 7, 2017, as presented.

6.3 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of September 6, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 6, 2017, as presented.

6.4 Appointment of Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member 2014-2018

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board appoint the following local association representative to serve as a Special Education Advisory Committee member for the term of 2014-2018:

Brittani Ali – Learning disabilities Association of Niagara Region

6.5 Unapproved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on today Meeting of October 17, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of October 17, 2017, as presented.

6.5.1 Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Terms of Reference

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Terms of Reference, as presented.

6.6 Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2017-2018

Presented for information.

6.7 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7 and F8

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program – St. Peter Catholic Elementary School

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program and introduced Victoria Wegelin, Principal of St. Peter Catholic Elementary School.

Principal Wegelin, with the assistance of students, parents and staff showcased St. Peter Catholic Elementary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chair MacNeil and Trustee Burtnik thanked Principal Wegelin, the staff, students and parents for their presentation.

2. Financial Report 2016-2017 as at August 31, 2017

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Financial Report 2016-2017 for information.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

Director Crocco, highlighted information contained in;

1.1 October 3, 2017 Trillium Lakelands District School Board Letter to Ministry of Education

1.2 Vincent's Thrift Store E-Mail

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Nil Report

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco noted progress on a number of System Priorities reports to inform the Board as required in this year's System Priorities and Ministry of Education meetings that members of Senior Staff will be attending in preparation to design next year's 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget starting in the new year.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 10, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the October 10, 2017 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic.

4.2 Calendar of Events – November 2017

Director Crocco reviewed the Calendar of Events – November, 2017 for Trustees information

4.3 OCSTA Information – October 13 & 20, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the OCSTA Information from October 13 & 20, 2017.

4.4 OCSTA October 17, 2017 Memorandum – Revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Partnership Guideline

Director Crocco highlighted the OCSTA October 17, 2017 Memorandum – Revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Partnership Guideline and noted the deadline for feedback submission is due Wednesday, December 6, 2017. Provided with the memorandum was a copy of the questions downloaded from the Ministry of Education website. Superintendent of Business & Financial Services will present a draft submission report from Senior Administrative Council for the review and additional input from Trustees at the December Committee of the Whole meeting.

4.5 Pilgrimage Sunday – October 29, 2017

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the annual Pilgrimage is being held on Sunday, October 29, 2016 at each Niagara Catholic Secondary School.

Trustees who wish to attend Pilgrimage 2017 were asked to contact the secondary school for the schools itinerary.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

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 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of October 24, 2017.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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 September 26, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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 September 26, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the Committee of the Whole meeting for November will be held on November 7, 2017.

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the October 24, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **October 24, 2017**.

Approved on **November 21, 2017**.

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 7, 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 Vice-Chair Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Fera

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 Tummillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Pat Rocca**, 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 Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 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 October 10, 2017

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 10, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017, as presented.

6.2 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Presented for information.

6.3 Capital Projects Update

Presented for information.

6.4 In Camera Items F1 and F3

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Pilgrimage 2017

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education introduced Lidia Di Lorenzo, Religion & Family Life Consultant, who presented information on Pilgrimage Sunday, held on October 29, 2017.

Student testimonials from each Catholic secondary school and a visual presentation capturing all of the Pilgrimages 2017 were shared with the Committee of the Whole.

Vice-Chair Burtnik thanked the “pilgrims” and their organizational committees for their commitment to the annual pilgrimage.

Trustee O’Leary and Trustee Fera expressed their pride in the student’s involvement and their expression of faith and love for one another as witnessed by their participation in Pilgrimage 2017.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision – Meeting the Unique Educational Needs of Students with Visual Impairments Through Instructional Strategies and Technology

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education introduced Carole Vanderlee, Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision.

Ms. Vanderlee showcased the role and support for students of the Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision by meeting the unique educational needs of students with visual impairments through instructional strategies and technology.

Ms. Vanderlee answered questions of Trustees.

Vice-Chair Burtnik thanked Ms. Vanderlee for the insight into the needs for students with visual impairments her role in meeting those needs.

2. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update

Director Crocco and members of Senior Administrative Council presented the November Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update for the information of the Committee of the Whole.

Director Crocco and members of Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

3. Monthly Updates

3.1 Student Trustees’ Update

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

Chair MacNeil thanked Student Trustees Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo for their involvement with the Student Senate.

3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

- On Friday, October 27, 2017, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, in partnership with the Ontario government hosted the Jumpstart Games for 300 female students ages eight to fourteen, from five Niagara Catholic schools: Assumption Catholic, St. Michael Catholic, Canadian Martyrs Catholic, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic, and St. Alfred Catholic Elementary Schools at Ridley College. Students rotated through different stations to develop and demonstrate their skills in physical literacy. Jumpstart's Women and Girls in Sport Initiative encourages girls to be active, creating a new generation of female sport leaders promoting diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. Thirty female students from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School participated in a Youth Leadership workshop led by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS). The secondary students participated as student leaders at the Jumpstart Games, and were also given the opportunity to enrol in a local Jumpstart-funded Fundamental Movement Skills workshop on November 18, 2017. MPP Jim Bradley, Olympic Bronze medalist, Brittany MacLean, and Paralympic hopeful Claire Buchanan joined Niagara Catholic staff and students at the Games.

Superintendent Baldasaro

- On November 3, 2017 Superintendent Iannantuono and Superintendent Baldasaro joined Trustee Fera, Trustee Sicoli, Director Crocco along with Administrators and staff from St. Denis Catholic, St. Alexander Catholic, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary and other schools in support of Principal Kevin Lamb of St. Denis Catholic and Principal Crocco of St. Alexander Catholic at the Merrition Arena for the 3rd Annual Murphy's Kids Charity Boxing Event. Principal Crocco, Principal Lamb and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary student Dylan Maisonneuve boxed in three charity bouts against members of the St. Catharines and area boxing club as part of a 10 bout boxing card. The money raised through the Murphy's Kids Program provides for free boxing lessons for students from low income families. The club presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to Principal Lamb for the breakfast program at St. Denis Catholic.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 24, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 24, 2017 issue for Trustees information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – November 2017

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

1.3 OCSTA Memorandum – 2018 AGM & Conference Resolutions

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the final deadline date for receipt of resolutions into the OCSTA office is 12:00 p.m. January 31, 2018

1.4 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board – December 5, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board on December 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

1.5 December Committee of the Whole – December 5, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the Committee of the Whole Meeting will follow the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board on December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

1.6 Annual Faith Formation for Priests, Trustees, Administrators & Chaplains – December 13, 2017

Director Crocco asked Trustees to confirm their attendance to the Annual Administrators, Trustees, Parish Priests, Faith Formation of December 13, 2017 beginning 11:00 a.m. with Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant to Corporate Services & Communications.

1.7 OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar – January 19 & 20, 2018

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar taking place on January 19 & 20, 2018.

Director Crocco asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 1.1 Director Crocco announced the continued implementation of the System Priorities.
- 1.2 Superintendent Vetrone continues to work with the auditors for a report to the November Board of the Financial Statements for 2016-2017
- 1.3 As part of our Open Houses, Niagara Catholic will continue to expand our French Immersion Program across the system by adding an additional grade. Superintendent Baldasaro and her team are monitoring the enrolment and will be presenting an information report to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting on the expansion of the program.

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 8:57 p.m. and reconvened at 9:23 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 November 7, 2017.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the November 7, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **November 7, 2017.**

Approved on **December 5, 2017.**

Kathy Burtnik
Vice-Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE STAFF WELLNESS
COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 30, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

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



STAFF WELLNESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Holy Cross Community Room

APPROVED MINUTES



1. Opening Prayer – Krista Wood
2. Committee Members – roll call

Staff Wellness Committee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Regrets
John Crocco, Director of Education	✓			
Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Human Resources	✓			
Gina Sattin, Coordinator of Staff Wellness (<i>Chair</i>)	✓			
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader	✓			
Mary Ann McKinley, Vice Principal			✓	
Marie Balanowski, OECTA-E President	✓			
Dino Sicoli, Trustee	✓			
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development	✓			
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Leader	✓			
Teresa Claxton, Supervisor of Benefits				✓
Anna Maxner, CUPE President			✓	
Jennifer McArthur, OECTA-E Vice President	✓			

3. Approval of Minutes of Staff Wellness Meeting – March 30, 2017

Moved by committee member

Seconded by committee member

That the Niagara Catholic District School Board Staff Wellness Committee members approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 30, 2017, as presented.

Carried

4. Staff Wellness Initiatives

- Review of 2016-2017 Staff wellness initiatives – see handout (review)
 - This was first year offering sessions – what worked/didn't work?
 - Offer programs/sessions that were successful/plan new sessions/topics
 - This year was difficult; work to rule; not much attendance
 - Self-care and wellness not a large turn out
 - SafeTALK – great attendance -30 people and wait list
 - Training with anxious students as a new idea

- Parenting tips as an idea
 - Drumming had a large response –offer again
 - ABA – executive functioning applies to staff/students
 - Cultural Sensitivity as an idea
 - Continue with Faith Formation
 - Continue to send email blasts bi-weekly?
 - Bi-weekly – too many?
 - Tips are being deleted – not being received positively
 - Tips need to be more relevant
 - Continue to send reminders for upcoming sessions?
 - Reminders are working well with ‘register now’ emails - continue
 - Greg Wells book (Ripple Effect)handed out to Staff Wellness Committee
 - Financial Literacy Program Survey results– please review handout
 - Survey results – Anthony Corapi will reach out to the Financial Advisor & Business Consultant team to offer Financial Literacy sessions for staff based on survey results
 - Continue to work on Google calendar of events for upcoming school year
 - Continue with events
 - Currently working on a Staff Wellness budget for next school year
 - In process of establishing a budget
 - There was a suggestion at a previous meeting to extend an offer to Niagara Catholic staff to be a part of the Staff Wellness committee – any suggestions on how to proceed??
 - Staff Wellness Committee has representation from all areas
 - Reps from schools? School can decide on who representative will be at each location; volunteer; could hold 1 or 2 meetings per year with school representatives
5. Ideas, Recommendations/Suggestions from the Staff Wellness Committee
- Suggestions for 2017 – 2018 School year
 - Reps from schools
 - Address morale; survey and comments
 - Brainstorm ideas around addressing issues
 - Leadership and relationship training needed so it can ripple into schools
 - Restorative circles were successful on PA day
 - Workshops on communicating with people and relationships; resiliency
 - Suggested Lidkea/Stob (EAP provider) to offer workshops
 - Common message – self care
 - Wellness on PA Days/Retirement workshops on PA Days...offer variety/options
6. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 31, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.
7. Adjournment

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 7, 2017, as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2017**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, September 7, 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 7:10 p.m. by Chair Daly.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

2. Roll Call : Guest: Gabriel Demizio, 2017-2018 Secondary Student Senate NCPIC Representative

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		√	
Anne Watt	Welland			√
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Community Representatives				
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace		√	
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		
SEAC Representative				
Anna Racine	SEAC Representative	√		
Bishop/Diocesan Representative				
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Secondary Student Senate Representative				
Hannah Tummillo	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
Trustees				
Kathy Burtnik	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Dino Sicoli	Trustee		√	

The following staff was in attendance:

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, Josie Rocca, Support Staff and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets sent: Theo Dagenais, Kate Hingston, Glenn Gifford, Dino Sicoli and Leone Strilec

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Chris Kouroushis

Seconded by: Kim Hedden

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 7, 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 May 11, 2017

Moved by: Mary Mannella-Byers

Seconded by: Carrie Vernelli

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. 2017-2018 NCPIC GOALS

2017-2018 NCPIC goals will be discussed at the November 2, 2017 meeting.

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**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that at this time the Niagara Catholic District School Board has not been notified of the approved 2017-2018 PRO Grant applications for Catholic School Councils or the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

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

1. **2017-2018 School Year Calendar**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided and reviewed the 2017-2018 School Year Calendar.

2. **2017-2018 Niagara Catholic System Priorities**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided and reviewed the 2017-2018 Niagara Catholic System Priorities.

3. **2017-2018 NCPIC Membership**

- Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that nomination packages for the 2017-2018 NCPIC membership were sent to all elementary and secondary schools and are also available on the Board website.
- Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that (2) nominations were received for the position of Community Representative on the NCPIC for the 2017-2018 school year. Nominations of Leone Strilec, Development and Peace and Shelley Gilbert, Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be presented at the Board Meeting of September 26, 2017.
- Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the following items will be actioned at the NCPIC meeting of November 2, 2017:
 - Election of the NCPIC Chair
 - Election of the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director
 - Terms of Office for parent/guardian members
 - Commissioning of the 2017-2018 NCPIC Membership

4. **OAPCE**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the eligibility requirements to be elected/appointed as the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director.

5. **Annual Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and Members Meeting**

Chair Daly, requested that this item be deferred and that proposals may be presented at the NCPIC meeting of November 2, 2017.

6. **Ministry Memo: Enrolment for Year Five of Fresh from the Farm: Healthy Fundraising of Ontario School Now Open**

- Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the Ministry Memo: Enrolment for Year Five of Fresh from the Farm: Healthy Fundraising of Ontario School Now Open. Superintendent

Forsyth-Sells reported that this information was provided to Principals to share with Catholic School Councils.

7. **NCPIC Financial Report**

A financial statement was provided for information.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Development and Peace-*Leone Strilec*

- Two delegates from the Diocese of St. Catharines attended the Development and Peace Regional Assembly in Sudbury and reported that it was well attended and inspiring. Serge Langlois was announced as the new Director of Development and Peace.
- On Tuesday, September 19, 2017 there will be a regional gathering for SW Ontario. The theme is *Wisdom for the Future* through Development and Peace with a focus on women and indigenous issues, including the Kairos Blanket Exercise. All are welcome to attend.
- On Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Development and Peace will host a Fall Action Campaign focusing on the importance of women working for social justice at St. Julia's Parish in St. Catharines and a light lunch will be provided.
- Prayer intentions were requested for the passing of Michael Beckermann, a long serving member of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council of Development and Peace.

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

- The St. Vincent de Paul Trivia Night was a great success raising over \$4200.00 which was an increase of \$200.00 from last year.
- St. Vincent de Paul sponsored 90 children to attend camp in 2017 at a cost of \$24,000.00.
- The "North of 60 Project" was a great success. In partnership with Niagara Catholic schools, and the support of five Niagara communities, St. Vincent de Paul was able to send approximately 16,000 pounds of food, hygiene products and craft items etc. to Nunavut.

G. SEAC REPORT-*Anna Racine*

Anna Racine reported that SEAC had their first meeting on September 6, 2017. The 2017-2018 SEAC goals will be further discussed and formalized at the SEAC meeting of October 4, 2017.

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

- Fr. Peter Rowe requested that we keep the Holy Father in our prayers as we continue to follow his tour of Columbia and Venezuela in Latin America.
- A Diocesan Marian Event, in celebration of the Year of the Rosary and the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Alfred Church, St. Catharines. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Gerard Bergie. Reflections on Mary and the Rosary and Celebration of a Living Rosary to follow at 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- On October 1, 2017 the parishes of St. Catharines will begin a consultation process asking "What we need to do, to address Family Life and Youth?"

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT- *Hannah Tummillo*

- Hannah introduced Gabriel Demizio, a Gr. 12 student from Lakeshore Catholic as the 2017-2018 Secondary Student Senate NCPIC Representative. For the 2017-2018 school year Hannah will represent Niagara Catholic as a Student Trustee.
- Hannah reported that the Secondary Student Senate launched and provided a video promoting the Secondary Student Senate to all elementary and secondary Principals.
- Hannah reported that the Secondary Student Senate is excited and looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year.

J. STAFF REPORTS-*Josie Rocca*

Josie Rocca reported that staff and students are happy to be back and are looking forward to an amazing 2017-2018 school year.

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

- Vice-Chair Burtnik reported that while staff and students were on summer break, staff at the Catholic Education Centre were busy preparing for the new school year. Special recognition was extended to the Facilities Services Department as over eighty-five upgrades were completed throughout Niagara Catholic schools.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik shared that Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education retired over the summer break and extended her congratulations and appreciation of Mark's commitment and dedication to Catholic education as a teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal and Superintendent of Education in Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik reported the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School was completed. Principal Zanuttini, staff, students, parents/guardians gathered on Tuesday, September 6, 2017 to pray with Board Chair, Fr. Paul MacNeil, to close the doors of the original St. Martin school. Staff and students were bussed to the new school and were welcomed and greeted by Director Crocco, Superintendent Baldasaro and Controller of Facilities Services, Scott Whitwell, and the Blessed Trinity Band to celebrate the first day of school at the new location.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik was pleased to announce that all staff declared redundant were called back to work in various positions.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik reported that boards across the province are currently involved in an Executive Compensation Framework. Niagara Catholic will submit the Executive Compensation Framework report to the Ministry no later than September 29, 2017. Once approved by the Ministry, a thirty (30) day public consultation will take place.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik reported municipal and provincial elections will take place in 2018.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik shared an email inviting families to WE DAY on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at the Air Canada Centre. Fifty (50) free tickets are available for Niagara Catholic families. The registration link will be provided to all NCPIC members and Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik distributed Certificates of Appreciation and thanked all members of the NCPIC for their commitment and dedication to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and Catholic education during the 2016-2017 school year.

L. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 2, 2017.

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

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shelley Gilbert

Seconded by: Marion Battersby

THAT the September 7, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of September 27, 2017 as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (open session) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, in the Holy Cross Community Room at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chair Father Paul MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Father Paul MacNeil.

2. Roll Call

Father Paul MacNeil noted that Committee members Marco Vetrone was absent from the meeting

Committee Member	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Joanne Kushner	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Marco Vetrone			✓	

Resources to the Audit Committee were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Jenny Baker, Regional Internal Audit Manager
John Forte, Regional Internal Audit Team

Staff in attendance:

Shari Bush, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Business and Financial Services

3. **Approval of the Open Agenda Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

Moved by Joanne Kushner

Seconded by Kathy Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Agenda of the Audit Committee Meeting (Open Session) of Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

CARRIE

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Open Session) of June 7, 2017**

Moved by Joanne Kushner

Seconded by Kathy Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Open Session) of Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

CARRIED

6. **Regional Internal Audit Status Report was presented by Jenny Baker, Regional Internal Audit Manager**

A Planned Audit ARC

B Other i) RAIT Education and Training Plan

ii) Andrea Eltherington, CIA, CRMA, temporary coverage as the Senior Analyst

iii) Update on Regional Internal Audit Consistency Measures

7. **Advertisement of the Non Board Membership position of the Niagara Catholic District School had been posted.**

It was noted that the copy of the post was not the updated version. The only change was that the submit was updated to John Crocco, Director of Education Secretary-Treasurer

8. **The meeting was moved to the Closed Committee Session at 10:40a.m. and moved back to the Open Committee Session at 11:08a.m.**

9. **Date of next meeting is November 10, 2017:**

A schedule for future meeting dates were decided and will be entered in the School Calendar Year 2018-2019

Friday, June 15, 2018

Friday, September 28, 2018

Friday, November 23, 2018

Friday, June 21, 2019

10. Other Business:

Father Paul wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Joanne Kushner for her 6 years of service as an Audit Committee Member.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Pat Vernal

Seconded by Joanne Kushner

THAT the September 27, 2017 Niagara Catholic Audit Committee Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
OCTOBER 4, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 4, 2017 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, October 4, 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 Vice-Chair Lavorato.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Vice-Chair Lavorato.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario		✓	
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	✓		
Michael Jacques	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				
Justine Bourak		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education; **Danny Giancola**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Lisa Selman**, Principal, Elementary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 4, 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 September 6, 2017

Moved by Karen Murphy
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 6, 2017 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Therapeutic Recreation – Rebecca Zimmer

Rebecca Zimmer and Jackie Frail, Professor, Recreation Therapy, Niagara College presented information about the scope and practice of a Recreation Therapist, Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO) and the unique role Recreation Therapy can play in special education service. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.

C. VISIONING

1. **Goals and Vision for 2017-2018**

1.1 Goals for the 2017-2018 School Year

Vice-Chair Lavorato asked the SEAC members for ideas for new goals for the 2017-2018 school year. A discussion was held and suggestions were brought forward. Anticipating a decision to confirm the goals at the November meeting.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

1. *Learner Advocacy*
2. *Parent Outreach*
3. *Program and Service Recommendations*
4. *Special Education Budget*
5. *Annual Review, Special Education Plan*
6. *Other Related Items*

6.1 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Superintendent Baldasaro informed the members that the current plan ends this December. More information will be forthcoming.

7. *Policy Review*

7.1 Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)

Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)

Feedback is to be submitted to Jennifer Pellegrini by November 8, 2017.

E. SEAC REPORT

1. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda

- A discussion was held regarding the next SEAC insert for Catholic School Council agenda. A suggestion was made to send the SEAC goals for 2017-2018. More information to follow at the November meeting.

2. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters

- Same as noted above for the Catholic School Council Agenda.

F. AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Go21 event was held at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls and was a huge success.
- October 28 – DSCP Halloween party is being held in Niagara Falls.
- The first week of November is Down Syndrome Awareness week.

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

- Nil Report

3. *Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi*

- Nil Report

4. *Community Living Welland Pelham – Michael Jacques*

- October 23-25, 2017 - *RDC, Rethinking Disabilities Conference 2017*. This workshop is being held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North and will address the challenges and opportunities that our youth with disabilities face when making the transition from the school system to the workplace.
- October 11-12, 2017 – *Creating Welcoming Communities: The Journey to Inclusion Begins at School Conference*. This conference is being held at the Algoma Water Tower Inn in Sault Ste. Marie.
- October 20-22, 2017 - *Re:Action4Inclusion* Conference being held in Orillia.
- October 25, 2017 — *A Million Possibilities Campaign*; held in Toronto – Michael Jacques and John Baird are the co-chairs – fundraiser for people with intellectual disabilities. In December of 2017, Colin Sanders will be rowing 4,000 kilometres across the Atlantic Ocean by himself to raise money for the *A Million Possibilities Campaign*.

5. *Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy*

- Autism apparel is available for sale. Contact the chapter office to place an order.
- Saturday, October 21st the Ice Dogs are holding an Autism Awareness night with team jersey's to be auctioned off. Tickets are \$15. Because the date is close, contact the Ice Dogs directly for tickets but let them know you are with Autism Niagara because they do have special seats sectioned off.
- Tickets will be going on sale after Thanksgiving for the Mad Hatter's Charity Ball on Saturday, November 25th. Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction and Candy Bar. If interested contact the chapter.

6. **Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey**

- The *Niagara Children's Centre Annual Report 2016-2017* was handed out for information.
- Highlights include the launch of the **Family Partnership Program** which provides opportunities for families who are receiving services to be advisors to the Centre.
- The Niagara Children's Centre is getting ready for transitions to school.
- April 1st – Current or existing contracts will be transitioned from the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to the Children's Treatment Centre for students requiring speech services, occupational and physiotherapy services.

7. **Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith**

- Nil Report

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. **Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary**

Happening in Elementary Schools

- Open houses have occurred.
- Special Education staff have been out in full force in all schools.
- IEPs are in progress.
- Student Council, Masses, Catholic School Council, Social Justice Activities are happening.
- WE Day event was held.
- Tutors in the Classroom program is run in connection with the Brock learning lab.
- Finished training for the PA Day.
- All schools have selected a Math Lead.
- Fire Prevention Week, Bus Safety Week
- Schools are rolling out their technology purchases.
- Hearing about Pro-Grants.
- School Nurses have been in schools looking at ways they can support.

2. **Denice Robertson – Principal, Secondary**

Happening in Secondary Schools

- Our Special Education class students are looking forward to the Hallowe'en party at Denis Morris
- Grade 9 Curriculum Night were hosted in September. The Special Education Department, presented two Power Points to the school community.
- Special Education Staff will continue to work with Transitional Aged Youth and community partners to support individuals and their families develop a plan for when it is time to leave the high school setting. This initiative will be reflected specifically for each and every student on their Individual Education Plan.
- Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are currently being developed. Parental input is always invited and appreciated. IEP's will be sent home. Teachers have been made aware of the students they will accommodate and there is ongoing discussion between them and the Special Education department to ensure that student needs are met.

Saint Michael

- We welcome new students into our Special Education class.
- 9 of our 23 Special Education class students will be participating in the upcoming Special Olympics Soccer competition in October. We are proud to partner with our Girls Soccer coach and a couple of our former Mustangs who play for Brock University Soccer who are helping us out on the day of competition.
- Staff will be developing our School Improvement Plan on our upcoming PD Day as well as learn more about the latest Special Education resources and Literacy initiative.

Lakeshore Catholic

- The Special Education class is looking forward to another dynamic year; with SNAP @ Brock University right around the corner, and various NCDSB and Special Olympics activity days marked in the calendar.
- The Special Education class expanded to include two new sensory rooms, two new accessible washrooms, and a learning strategies classroom complete with an interactive smartboard system.
- The focus has been placed on the implementation of ABA strategies (by teachers and staff), as well as establishing school-wide transparency with regards to assessment and evaluation.

Denis Morris

- We are starting another year of the Best Buddies program. We will be hosting the Halloween dance for the eight high schools as our first event. Past and present peer helpers act as buddies to our students, developing friendships and contributing to the DM family community.
- Special Education is presenting at this month's Professional Development day, with a focus on Knowing Your Learner and Student Profile contributions. At monthly meetings, Denis Morris is continuing its' Capacity Building series for staff in order to move student achievement forward. The October series will include checklists for teachers to use when dealing with challenging behaviours.
- The Special Education Classroom will be participating in SNAP in November at Brock University. Our students greatly look forward to the SNAP program and what it has to offer through physical activity and social interaction.

Holy Cross

- The Special Education Class has enjoyed an exciting start to the new school year. The students were very happy to see each other again and to be back with their Holy Cross family. We welcomed three new grade 9 students to our class as well.
- This month, the class has been actively involved in decorating the classroom, creating events calendars for the school year, and a birthday calendar for the Special Education Class. Everyone has been enjoying the weekly visits from our therapy dogs and bi-weekly visits from our music therapist. Each student in the class will be preparing and baking a pumpkin pie to take home for Thanksgiving weekend.

Blessed Trinity

- We are updating our class website to include new photos and events and are also very excited about renewing our relationship with the Grimsby YMCA and are planning some swimming excursions. Our class has some exceptional swimmers and we are looking forward to them being a part of the team.
- SEA equipment (laptops and FM Systems) have been distributed to students.

Saint Francis

- Special Education Classroom staff and students have begun our school's Breakfast Program once again this year. They also continue to provide snacks for our P3 after-school program.
- Some of our Special Education students will participate in SNAP (the Special Needs Activity Program) at Brock on October 26th.
- Several of our Special Education Classroom students are participating in the Horticulture APC course during the afternoons this semester.

Notre Dame College

- Re-Action for Inclusion is an impressive student conference happening this October 20-22; Friday until Sunday at the YMCA Conference Centre in Orillia. Notre Dame has been involved in this conference from the beginning, some nine years ago.
- Swim practice starts in the first week of October for our Swim Team, and this year, have increased the number of Special Education students who are interested in participating. Many of our experienced swimmers paired up (without any prompting from anyone) to offered personalized coaching during practices. We are looking forward to starting off our first swim meet with a rousing version of the Irish Fight Song and kissing our lucky duck!

Saint Paul

- We have a several students learning valuable life skills - there is a student doing a co-op placement at Sobeys and several students taking the Horticulture class. We look forward to participating in the upcoming Special Olympics Soccer tournament on October 12 in Welland. As well, we have two upcoming Special Education social events - Halloween hosted by Denis Morris and Christmas hosted by Saint Paul. Our new grade nine students have acclimated nicely to the secondary setting. The Special Education Department is looking forward to a great year!

3. Yolanda Baldasaro – Superintendent of Education

- October 19, 2017 – Director's Inspiration Mass and Award presentation is being held at St. Mary of Assumption Parish in St. Catharines.
- October 6, 2017 – Professional Activity Day for Elementary and Secondary panels, focussing on topics such as,
 - Student Achievement/Student Success: Developing and Implementing Board and School Improvement Plans.
 - Implementing strategies to improve and/or to close the gaps in student achievement in numeracy and literacy.
 - Developing Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- October 29, 2017 – Pilgrimage Sunday for Secondary Schools.
- Pat Rocca has been appointed the new Superintendent of Education.

4. Danny Giancola – Coordinator Special Education

- Brock Special Needs Activity Program (SNAP) is happening for students in Elementary and Secondary schools.
- October 3 – Training was held for Educational Resource Teachers (ERT) s new to the role.
- Gifted Modules – Upcoming module for October is on Financial Literacy.
- September 27 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing workshop was held.
- Completed Kaufmann Test for Educational Assessment (KTEA) 3 training for all ERTS.
- Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Supervisors are involved in Connections meetings.

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Pat Vernal – Trustee

- Nil Report

2. Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee

- Nil Report

I. STUDENT REPORT

1. Justine Bourak– Student Senate Representative

- October 12-13, 2017 – Student Senate Retreat is happening at Journey’s Retreat. Will be discussing the Lead out Loud conference.
- We Day – some Student Senate representatives attended.

J. NCPIC REPORT

- Nil Report

K. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. At the Alliance Committee Meeting, an excellent presentation was given by Marco Magazzeni, Administrator of Alternative Programs which highlighted the partnerships that have been formed with Niagara Catholic that support and promote Catholic education.

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 MACSE Correspondence: Guidelines for Accessible Education

Superintendent Baldasaro presented the MACSE Correspondence: Guidelines for Accessible Education for information.

7. **Policy Review**

M. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Nomination Letter for SEAC Representative

A letter was received from the LDANR nominating Brittani Ali as the primary representative on the Niagara Catholic SEAC. This letter will go to the Board for approval at the October 24 Board meeting.

Approval of the appointment of a local association representative to serve as a Special Education Advisory Committee member for the term of 2014-2018:

Moved by Bill Helmeczi
Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the appointment of the following local association representative to serve as a Special Education Advisory Committee member for the term of 2014-2018:

Brittani Ali – Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (Primary Representative)

CARRIED

N. QUESTION PERIOD

O. NOTICES OF MOTION

P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Problem Solving Model – Niagara Catholic District School Board Special Education staff.

Q. INFORMATION ITEMS

R. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

S. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the October 4, 2017 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

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

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND
EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee
2017-2018 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: November 21, 2017



REPORT TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 21, 2017

EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2017-2018 extended overnight field trips, excursions and exchanges as submitted to date. The composition of the approval Committee is as follows:

1 Supervisory Officer	-	Ted Farrell
1 Secondary School Vice-Principal	-	Andrew Bartley
1 Secondary School Principal	-	Denice Robertson
1 Elementary School Principal	-	Steve Ward
1 Program Department Consultant	-	Jennifer Pirosko

As defined in the Niagara Catholic Educational Field Trip Policy (400.2) Administrative Procedures, an Extended Overnight Field Trip is:

- “Any school/board sponsored and supervised activity, on scheduled instructional days, beyond the school property that requires four or five more night lodgings”
or
- “Requiring an individual flight ticket of \$600.00 or more.” (Part II, A.4)

An Excursion is defined as follows:

- “A trip not directly linked to specific subject curriculum expectations, but provided to enrich a student’s overall Catholic education. An excursion is a trip that is planned and arranged for secondary school students that would be held during the year when the students are not normally expected to be attending classes and that does not adhere to all guidelines and procedures relating to Educational Field Trips.” (Part II, A.5)

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2016-2017 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, November 21st, 2017. (Appendix A)

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2017-2018
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: November 21, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix A

Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee Approval – 2017-2018

SCHOOL	TYPE	APPROVAL REQUIRED	DESTINATION	CURRICULUM UNIT/THEME	EDUCATION VALUE	FAITH COMPONENT	DATE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, STAFF & CHAPERONES ON TRIP	DURATION	COST (APPROX)	TRANS-PORTATION
Lakeshore Catholic	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	Chicago, Illinois, USA	Arts, Culture and Photography	To expose students to the culture and history of an arts focused city. Provide them with the opportunity to explore Art, Architecture, Music and Theatre.	Students will visit the Church of St. Patrick or as it is known by the locals "Old St. Pats" Following the tour students will have the opportunity to attend Mass.	Monday, May 21, 2018 to Friday, May 25, 2018 (Note – Monday, May 21 is a statutory holiday)	25 + students up to a max of 45 3 – 4 Staff Members if numbers warrant (All coverage arranged internally)	5 days (4 school days) 4 nights	\$1,491.00 per person (includes 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners) Plus personal spending money	Coach Bus

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
ST. JOSEPH GRIMSBY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The School Excellence Program report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 21, 2017



SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ST. JOSEPH GRIMSBY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, located in the heart of Grimsby, first opened its doors to 196 students in September 1954. Students enjoyed the benefits of being adjacent to the church until its move to the new location on Livingston Ave. in 1995.

The special relationship that has developed with our parish continues to flourish. Students are provided with spiritual guidance, and opportunities to contribute in meaningful celebrations, both at church and at school.

Early Literacy and Numeracy programs are a special focus at St. Joseph Catholic School. An excellent library supports our reading programs; technology and numerous other resources assist students in their learning. Special needs students, supported by an Educational Resource Teacher are integrated into all activities and after school remedial programs funded by the Ministry of Education provide support to students requiring additional support and/or assistance. Physical fitness and health studies, based on Ministry requirements and the OPHEA Guidelines, form an integral part of each student's learning. Other co-curricular activities for students include choir, chess, sports, karate, scrabble and Mad Science.

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School enjoys a strong partnership with our Catholic School Council and our parent community. Parents serve on committees, and are frequent volunteers in our classrooms and school excursions.

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School is a part of the [Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School](#) Family of Schools.

School Mission Statement

To foster the excellence of each student through spiritual, academic and social pursuits within a Christ-centred community.

School Motto

"A Great Place for Everyone"

Contact Info

5 Robinson St. N.
Grimsby, ON
L3M 3C8
P. 905.945.4955
F. 905.945.2776

[Contact](#)

Grades

K - 8

Enrolment

257 as of September 2017

Principal

Lisa Incaviglia

Superintendent

Pat Rocca

Catholic School Council

Chair: Tina Karwalajtys

Co-Chair: Sarah Veld

Parish

[St. Joseph](#)

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: November 21, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2016-2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Audit Committee approve and recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board the approval of the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2016-2017, as presented.

Prepared by: Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Audit Committee
Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP

Recommended by: Audit Committee

Date: November 21, 2017



REPORT TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 21, 2017

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016-2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year all publically funded school boards are required to submit Audited Consolidated Financial statements and related forms to the Ministry of Education. As required by the Ministry of Education, the external Auditors have presented the 2016-2017 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements to the Audit Committee on November 10, 2017.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004: B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act.

The 2016-2017 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements operating deficit is (\$335,020). However, the total accumulated surplus available for Ministry compliance purposes is \$475,600.

The 2016-2017 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and related schedules have been electronically submitted to the Ministry of Education on November 15, 2017.

A copy of the final Draft of the 2016-2017 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and the related Audit letters are hereby attached for the review of the Trustees. (Appendix A)

After review and discussion, the members of the Audit Committee recommended that the 2016-2017 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements be approved by the Board on November 21, 2017.

Appendix A – Niagara Catholic District School Board Post Audit Letter

Appendix B – Niagara Catholic District School Board Management Letter

Appendix C – Audit Consolidated Financial Statements 2016-2017 Final Draft

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Audit Committee approve and recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board the approval of the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2016-2017, as presented.

Prepared by: Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Audit Committee
Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP

Recommended by: Audit Committee

Date: November 21, 2017

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

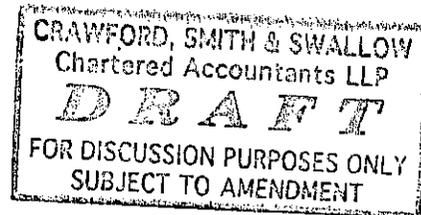
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**crawford
smith &
swallow**

Offices in:
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St. Catharines, Ontario
Fort Erie, Ontario
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Port Colborne, Ontario

November xx, 2017

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



Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

The following is the communication of matters arising from the audit of Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2017 required under Canadian Auditing Standards 260 and 265 of the CPA Canada Handbook. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, nor in any way to restrict the communication of other matters.

Completion of External Audit

The responsibilities of the auditors in relation to the consolidated financial statements is to form and express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements which have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. We have expressed an unqualified opinion as to whether the consolidated financial statements present fairly in accordance with Board of Trustees the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the Board.

The interim audit was performed during a two week period commencing on August 14, 2017. The year end audit was performed from September 25, 2017 until November xx, 2017.

Fraud

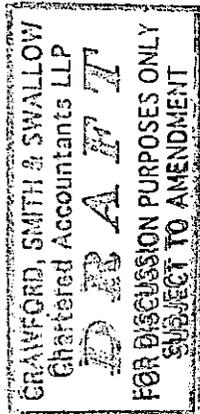
Auditors' Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements, CPA Canada Handbook. CAS 240, defines fraud as "an intentional act by one or more individuals among management, employees, those charged with governance, or third parties, involving the use of deception to obtain an unjust or illegal advantage". Although fraud is a broad legal concept, the auditor is concerned with fraudulent acts that cause a material misstatement in the financial statements. Misstatement of the financial statements may not be the objective of some frauds, and misappropriation of assets may not necessarily result in a misstatement of the financial statements. Auditors do not make legal determinations of whether fraud has actually occurred. Fraud involving one or more members of management or those charged with

governance is referred to as "management fraud"; fraud involving only employees of the entity is referred to as "employee fraud". In either case, there may be collusion with third parties outside the entity.

We confirm that there were no findings of fraud.

Consideration of Laws and Regulations

Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 250 states that the term "non-compliance" means "acts of omission or commission by the entity, either intentional or unintentional, which are contrary to the prevailing laws or regulations. Such acts include transactions entered into by, or in the name of, the entity, or on its behalf, by those charged with governance, management or employees. Non-compliance does not include personal misconduct (unrelated to the business activities of the entity) by those charged with governance, management or employees of the entity." As explained in CPA Canada CAS 250, auditors conducting an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards must obtain a general understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and the industry of sector in which the entity operates and how the entity is complying with that framework. To do this the auditors inquire of management, and where appropriate those charged with governance, as to whether the entity is in compliance with such laws and regulations and inspecting correspondence, if any, with the relevant licensing or regulatory authorities. Although the auditors are required to remain alert to the possibility that other audit procedures applied may bring instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to the auditor's attention, in the absence of identified or suspected non-compliance the auditors are not required to perform audit procedures regarding the entity's compliance with laws and regulations.



We confirm that no evidence which indicates non-compliance with laws and regulations was found.

Weaknesses in Internal Control

Internal Control in the Context of an Audit, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 265, provides the following guidance concerning the communication of significant weaknesses in internal control:

CPA Canada Handbook CAS 265.11 In conducting the audit, the auditors would consider only those "internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control". An audit is not designed to consider whether internal control is adequate for management's purposes. Consequently, the auditors would only identify weaknesses in internal control that come to the auditors' attention during the financial statement audit. The auditors may not identify all the weaknesses that exist. A weakness in internal control is a deficiency in the design or effective operation of internal control. The identification of weaknesses in internal control is influenced by matters such as the auditors' assessment of materiality, the auditors' preliminary assessment of the components of audit risk and the audit approach used by the auditors. For example, if the auditors use a substantive audit approach for a particular financial statement assertion, they will not perform tests of controls in this area. Therefore the auditors' knowledge of controls in this area will generally be limited. Accordingly, the auditors will not have a detailed knowledge of the control systems

that enhance the reliability of data and information and therefore may not identify weaknesses in these control systems.

A deficiency exists when, a control is designed, implemented or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis or a control necessary to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing. A significant deficiency exists when a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance in the auditor's professional judgment. The matters being reported are limited to those deficiencies of sufficient merit to be reported to those charged with governance.

We confirm that we encountered no significant deficiencies in internal control.

Related Party Transactions

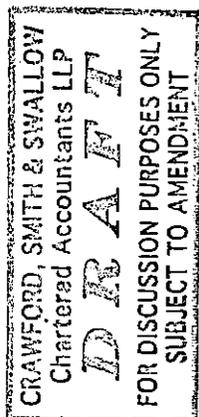
As explained in Related Parties, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 550, auditors conducting an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards may identify related party transactions which are not in the normal course of operations and which, in the auditors' professional judgement, involve significant judgements by management concerning measurement or disclosure.

We confirm that other than the transactions disclosed in note thirteen (Related Party Transactions) of the consolidated financial statements, no such transactions requiring the Board of Trustees to be informed were identified during the audit. We also confirm that the organization has adequate controls in place to identify related party transactions.

Significant Accounting Principles and Policies

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the initial selection of and changes in significant accounting policies, including the adoption of new accounting pronouncements, which encompass the specific principles and their method of application;
- (b) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas, or those unique to an industry;
- (c) the existence of acceptable alternative policies and methods, and the acceptability of the particular policy or method used by management;
- (d) the extent to which the financial statements are affected by unusual transactions (including non-recurring amounts recognized during the period) and the extent to which such transactions are separately disclosed in the financial statements; and
- (e) the effect of the timing of transactions in relation to the period in which they are recorded.



Please refer to note 1(a) Basis of Accounting of the consolidated financial statements for a summary of the differences between Canadian public sector accounting standards and the basis of accounting as recommended by the Ministry of Education in accordance with the Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act.

Management Judgements and Accounting Estimates

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the issues involved, and related judgements made by management, in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and disclosures (for example, disclosures related to going concern, subsequent events and contingency issues);
- (b) the basis for the auditors' conclusions regarding the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole;
- (c) the risks of material misstatement from estimates;
- (d) indicators of possible management bias;
- (e) the factors affecting asset and liability carrying values, including the entity's basis for determining useful lives assigned to tangible and intangible assets;
- (f) the timing of transactions that affect the recognition of revenues or avoid recognition of expenses; and
- (g) disclosure of estimation uncertainty in the financial statements.

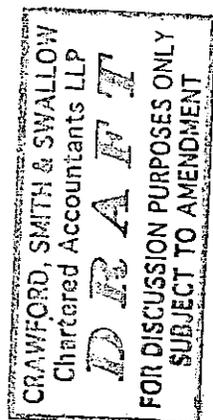
We confirm that none of the above items require any further discussion.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the issues involved, and related judgements made, in formulating particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures;
- (b) the overall neutrality, consistency, and clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements;
- (c) the potential effect on the financial statements of significant risks, exposures and uncertainties (such as pending litigation); and
- (d) the selective correction of misstatements.

We confirm that none of the above items require any further discussion.



Other Matters Arising From the Audit

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. When the auditors are aware that such consultation has occurred, the auditors would communicate with the Board of Trustees as appropriate. If the auditors find that the consultation has not occurred in accordance with Reports on the Application of Accounting Principles, Auditing Standards or Review Standards, CPA Canada Handbook 7600, this would be communicated with the Board of Trustees.

We confirm that we are not aware of any consultations with other accountants.

The auditors communicate with the Board of Trustees any major issues discussed with management in connection with the initial or recurring appointment of the auditors, including, among other matters, discussions regarding the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, and fees.

We confirm that there are no major issues in connection with the recurring appointment of the auditor.

The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any significant difficulties encountered while performing the audit, including significant delays in management providing information required for the audit, an unnecessarily brief timetable in which to complete the audit, extensive unexpected effort required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the unavailability of expected information, restrictions imposed on the auditor by management, and management's unwillingness to make or extend its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern when requested.

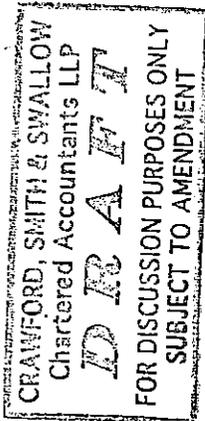
We confirm that no significant difficulties were encountered in the performance of the audit.

The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any significant matters discussed, or subject to correspondence with management, while performing the audit including business conditions affecting the entity and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement and written representations requested.

We confirm that no significant matters were discussed or communicated with management during the course of the audit. Please see management's representation letter for written representations requested.

In accordance with CPA Canada Handbook CAS 450, the auditors shall communicate with the Board of Trustees uncorrected misstatements and the effect that they, individually or in aggregate, may have on the opinion in the auditors' report. The auditors' communication shall identify material uncorrected misstatements individually. The auditor shall request that uncorrected misstatements be corrected.

Please refer to management's letter of representation for all adjustments made and the list of uncorrected misstatements not made by management during the course of the audit. We agree with management's assessment that the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. However, in accordance with the requirements of CPA Canada Handbook CAS 450(12), we request that the Board of Trustees instruct management to have the uncorrected misstatements corrected.

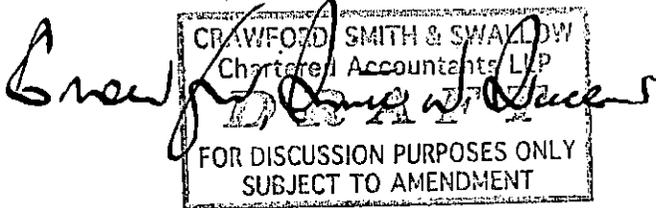


The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any other significant matters relevant to the financial reporting process including material misstatements of fact or material inconsistencies in information accompanying the audited financial statements that have been corrected.

We confirm that no significant matters relevant to the financial reporting process were identified during the audit.

We look forward to discussing with you the matters outlined in this letter as well as other matters that may be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,



CRAWFORD SMITH & SWALLOW
Chartered Accountants LLP
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

**CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP**

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

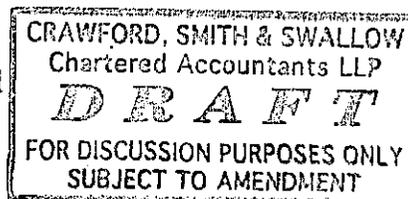
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swallow**

Offices in:
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St. Catharines, Ontario
Fort Erie, Ontario
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Port Colborne, Ontario

November xx, 2017

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



Re: Audit of 2017 Financial Statements

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

We have now completed our examination of the financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2017. As stated in our report dated November xx, 2017 addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the objective of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements and our audit included considerations of internal controls relevant to our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material misstatements. Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls or for identifying all significant deficiencies that may exist. Accordingly, our audit would not usually identify all such matters that may be of interest to you and it is inappropriate to conclude that no such matters exist.

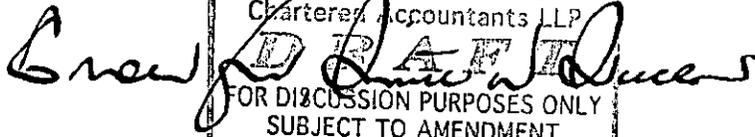
In accordance with CAS 265 of the CPA Canada Handbook, Assurance, the auditor is required to communicate to those charged with governance and management deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified during the audit and that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are of sufficient importance to merit their respective attentions.

We are pleased to report that during the course of our audit of Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2017, we have not identified any significant deficiencies that the Board of Trustees should be made aware of.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party that relies on this communication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their assistance and co-operation during our audit. Should you wish to discuss the above matters further, please contact our office at your convenience.

Yours very truly,


CRAWFORD, SMITH & SWALLOW
Chartered Accountants LLP
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP

MP*gz

c.c. Mr. J. Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer
Mr. G. Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

*crawford
smith &
swallow*

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**

Consolidated Financial Statements

August 31, 2017

DRAFT

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Consolidated Financial Statements

August 31, 2017

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NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT

August 31, 2017

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (the "Board") are the responsibility of the Board's management and have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act, as described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

The preparation of consolidated financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgement, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

Board management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the consolidated financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The Board meets with management and the external auditors to review the consolidated financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the consolidated financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Board. The accompanying Independent Auditors' Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Director of Education/
Secretary Treasurer
Mr. John Crocco
November xx, 2017

Superintendent of Business
and Financial Services
Mr. Giancarlo Vetrone
November xx, 2017

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

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**crawford
smith &
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Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Port Colborne, Ontario

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of the
Niagara Catholic District School Board

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at August 31, 2017, the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated surplus, cash flows and change in net debt for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audit is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board as at and for the year ended August 31, 2017 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements which describes the basis of accounting used in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements and the significant differences between such basis of accounting and Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Niagara Falls, Ontario
November xx, 2017

CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DRAFT

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

August 31, 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash	24,802,158	22,446,983
Accounts receivable	7,705,740	7,689,394
Accounts receivable - Province of Ontario approved capital - note 2	72,809,073	70,586,125
Assets held for sale - note 3	-	1,471,116
	105,316,971	102,193,618
Contingent Liabilities - note 14		
Financial Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,079,359	16,030,889
Deferred revenue - note 4	15,689,303	8,250,467
Employee future benefits - note 5	9,141,666	9,497,751
Net long-term liabilities and capital leases- note 6	70,117,402	74,056,018
Deferred capital contributions - note 7	180,097,906	172,995,333
	291,125,636	280,830,458
Net Debt	(185,808,665)	(178,636,840)
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets - schedule 1	196,011,297	189,005,870
Prepaid expenses	691,003	859,625
	196,702,300	189,865,495
Accumulated Surplus - note 8	10,893,635	11,228,655

Signed on behalf of the Board:

Chairperson of the Board

Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

	2017 Budget \$	2017 Actual \$	2016 Actual \$
Revenues			
Provincial legislative grants	239,869,846	238,946,387	240,885,948
Provincial grants - other	3,695,000	3,892,302	4,529,789
Federal grants and fees	375,000	303,310	386,535
Other fees and revenue	3,736,477	2,109,036	3,198,778
Investment income	266,000	235,631	229,658
School fundraising	8,225,000	6,891,892	8,251,253
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	10,953,774	11,236,763	10,624,110
Deferred capital contributions funding of loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	11,055
	267,121,097	263,615,321	268,117,126
Expenditures			
Instruction	201,971,659	201,103,672	203,958,818
Administration	8,158,973	8,462,591	8,134,441
Transportation	9,553,680	9,055,162	9,416,753
Pupil accommodation	38,000,161	38,369,800	36,989,128
Other operating expenses	117,487	117,487	117,487
School funded activities	8,225,000	6,841,629	8,243,221
	266,026,960	263,950,341	266,859,848
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	1,094,137	(335,020)	1,257,278
Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year	11,228,655	11,228,655	9,971,377
Accumulated Surplus, End of Year	12,322,792	10,893,635	11,228,655

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operations		
Annual surplus (deficit)	(335,020)	1,257,278
Sources (Uses)		
Change in accounts receivable	(16,346)	2,560,258
Change in accounts receivable - Province of Ontario approved capital	(2,222,948)	2,160,654
Change in prepaid expenses	168,622	(74,857)
Change in assets held for sale	1,471,116	-
Change in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	48,470	4,480,659
Change in deferred revenue	7,438,836	626,670
Change in employee future benefits	(356,085)	(691,290)
	6,531,665	9,062,094
Non-cash charges to operations		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	11,657,535	11,019,100
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	11,055
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(11,236,763)	(10,624,110)
	420,772	406,045
Net increase in cash from operations	6,617,417	10,725,417
Capital		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(18,662,962)	(11,018,439)
Net additions to deferred capital contributions	18,339,336	10,370,879
Net decrease in cash from capital	(323,626)	(647,560)
Financing		
Debt and capital lease issued	-	79,366
Debt repayments and sinking fund contributions	(3,938,616)	(4,819,620)
Net decrease in cash from financing	(3,938,616)	(4,740,254)
Increase in Cash Position	2,355,175	5,337,603
Cash Position, Beginning of Year	22,446,983	17,109,380
Cash Position, End of Year	24,802,158	22,446,983

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT

for the year ended August 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(335,020)	1,257,278
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(18,662,962)	(11,018,439)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	11,657,535	11,019,100
Loss on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	-	11,055
Reclassification of Tangible Capital Assets to Assets Held for Sale	-	1,471,116
Change in Prepaid Expenses	168,622	(74,857)
(Increase) Decrease in Net Debt	(7,171,825)	2,665,253
Net Debt, Beginning of Year	(178,636,840)	(181,302,093)
Net Debt, End of Year	(185,808,665)	(178,636,840)

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies

The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management in accordance with the basis of accounting described below.

(a) Basis of accounting

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act.

The Financial Administration Act requires that the consolidated financial statements be prepared in accordance with the accounting principles determined by the relevant Ministry of the Province of Ontario. A directive was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education within memorandum 2004:B2 requiring school boards to adopt Canadian public sector accounting standards commencing with their year ended August 31, 2004 and that changes may be required to the application of these standards as a result of regulation.

In 2011, the government passed Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act. The Regulation requires that contributions received or receivable for the acquisition or development of depreciable tangible capital assets and contributions of depreciable tangible capital assets for use in providing services, be recorded as deferred capital contributions and be recognized as revenue in the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus over the periods during which the asset is used to provide service at the same rate that amortization is recognized in respect to the related asset. The regulation further requires that if the net book value of the depreciable tangible capital asset is reduced for any reason other than depreciation, a proportionate reduction of the deferred capital contribution along with a proportionate increase in revenue be recognized. For Ontario school boards, these contributions include government transfers, externally restricted contributions and, historically, property tax revenue.

The accounting policy requirements under Regulation 395/11 are significantly different from the requirements of Canadian public sector accounting standards which requires that:

- government transfers, which do not contain a stipulation that creates a liability, be recognized as revenue by the recipient when approved by the transferor and the eligibility criteria have been met in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3410;
- externally restricted contributions be recognized as revenue in the period in which the resources are used for the purpose or purposes specified in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3100; and
- property taxation revenue be reported as revenue when received or receivable in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3510.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(a) Basis of accounting - continued

As a result, revenue recognized in the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus and certain related deferred revenues and deferred capital contributions would be recorded differently under Canadian public sector accounting standards.

(b) Reporting entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the reporting entity. The reporting entity is comprised of all organizations accountable for the administration of their financial affairs and resources to the Board and which are controlled by the Board.

School generated funds, which include assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of various organizations that exist at the school level and which are controlled by the Board are reflected in the consolidated financial statements.

The following entities are consolidated with the Board:

Niagara Student Transportation Services Consortium
School Generated Funds

Interdepartmental and inter-organizational transactions and balances between these organizations are eliminated.

(c) Trust funds

Trust funds and their related operations administered by the Board are not included in the consolidated financial statements as they are not controlled by the Board.

(d) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortization. Historical cost includes amounts that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset, as well as interest related to financing during construction.

Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as leased tangible capital assets. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(d) Tangible capital assets - continued

Tangible capital assets, except land, are amortized on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Basis</u>
General Assets		
Land	- NIL	
Land improvements	- 15 years	straight line
Buildings	- 40 years	straight line
Portable structures	- 20 years	straight line
Equipment	- 5-15 years	straight line
First-time equipping	- 10 years	straight line
Furniture	- 10 years	straight line
Computer hardware	- 5 years	straight line
Computer software	- 5 years	straight line
Vehicles	- 5 years	straight line
Computers under capital lease	- 5 years	straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 5 years	straight line

Assets under construction and assets that relate to pre-acquisition and pre-construction costs are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

Land permanently removed from service and held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost and estimated net realizable value. Cost includes amounts for improvements to prepare the land for sale or servicing. Buildings permanently removed from service and held for resale cease to be amortized and are recorded at the lower of carrying value and estimated net realizable value. Tangible capital assets which meet the criteria for financial assets are reclassified as "assets held for sale" on the consolidated statements of financial position.

Works of art and cultural and historic assets are not recorded as assets in these consolidated financial statements.

(e) Deferred revenue

Certain amounts are received pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used in the conduct of certain programs or in the delivery of specific services and transactions. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year the related expenditures are incurred or services performed.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(f) Deferred capital contributions

Contributions received or receivable for the purpose of acquiring or developing a depreciable tangible capital asset for use in providing services, or any contributions in the form of depreciable tangible assets received or receivable for use in providing services, are recognized as deferred capital contributions as defined in Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act. These amounts are recognized as revenue at the same rate as the related tangible capital asset is amortized:

- government transfers received or receivable for capital purpose;
- other restricted contributions received or receivable for capital purpose;
- property taxation which were historically used to fund capital assets.

(g) Retirement and other employee future benefits

The Board provides defined retirement and other future benefits to specified employee groups. These benefits include pension, health care benefits, dental benefits, retirement gratuity, workers' compensation and long-term disability benefits.

As part of ratified labour collective agreements for unionized employees that bargain centrally and ratified central discussions with the principals and vice-principals associations, an Employee Life and Health Trust ("ELHT") was established in 2016-17 for the OECTA employee group. Starting June 1, 2017, the Board was no longer responsible to provide certain benefits to OECTA. The ELHT provides health, life and dental benefits to teachers (excluding daily occasional teachers). These benefits are being provided through a joint governance structure between OECTA, school board trustees associations and the Government of Ontario. School boards whose employee groups transitioned their health, dental and life benefits to the ELHT are required to remit a negotiated amount per full-time equivalency ("FTE") on a monthly basis. Funding for the ELHT is based on the existing benefits funding embedded within the Grants for Student Needs ("GSN") and additional ministry funding in the form of a Crown contribution and Stabilization Adjustment.

The Board continues to provide health, dental and life insurance benefits for retired individuals and the following employee groups: CUPE and non-unionized employees including principals and vice-principals. The board continues to have a liability for payment of benefits under these plans.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(g) Retirement and other employee future benefits - continued

The Board has adopted the following policies with respect to accounting for these employee benefits:

- (i) The costs of self-insured retirement and other employee future benefit plans are actuarially determined using management's best estimate of salary escalation, accumulated sick days during employment and at retirement, insurance and health care cost trends, disability recovery rates, long-term inflation rates and discount rates. The cost of retirement gratuities are actuarially determined using the employee's salary, banked sick days and years of service as at August 31, 2012 and management's best estimate of discount rates. Any actuarial gains and losses arising from changes to the discount rate are amortized over the expected average remaining service life of the employee group.

For self-insured retirement and other employee future benefits that vest or accumulate over the periods of service provided by the employees, such as health care benefits for retirees or retirement gratuities, the cost is actuarially determined using projected benefits method prorated on service. Under this method, the benefit costs are recognized over the expected average service life of the employee group.

For those self-insured benefit obligations that arise from specific events that occur from time to time, such as obligations for workers' compensation, long-term disability and life insurance and health care benefits for those on disability leave, the cost is recognized immediately in the period the events occur. Any actuarial gains and losses that are related to these benefits are recognized immediately in the period they arise.

- (ii) The costs of multi-employer defined pension plan benefits, such as the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System pensions, are the employer's contributions due to the plan in the period.
- (iii) The costs of insured benefits are the employer's portion of insurance premiums owed for coverage of employees during the period.

(h) Government transfers

Government transfers, which include legislative grants, are recognized in the consolidated financial statements in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amount can be made. If government transfers contain stipulations which give rise to a liability, they are deferred and recognized in revenue when stipulations are met.

Government transfers for capital that meet the definition of a liability are referred to as deferred capital contributions ("DCC"). Amounts are recognized into revenue as the liability is extinguished over the useful life of the asset.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(i) Investment income

Investment income is reported as revenue in the period earned.

When required by the funding government or related Act, investment income earned on externally restricted funds such as pupil accommodation, education development charges and special education forms part of the respective deferred revenue balances.

(j) Long-term debt

Long-term debt is recorded net of related sinking fund assets.

(k) Budget figures

Budget figures have been provided for comparison purposes and have been derived from the budget approved by the Trustees. The budget approved by the Trustees is developed in accordance with the provincially mandated funding model for school boards and is used to manage program spending within the guidelines of the funding model. The budget figures are unaudited.

(l) Use of estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Accounts subject to significant estimates include accounts receivable, accounts receivable - Province of Ontario, tangible capital assets, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and employee future benefits. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(m) Property Tax Revenue

Under Canadian public sector accounting standards, the entity that determines and sets the tax levy records the revenue in the financial statements, which in the case of the Board, is the Province of Ontario. As a result, property tax revenue received from municipalities is recorded as part of Provincial Legislative Grants.

2. Accounts Receivable - Province of Ontario

The Province of Ontario (the "Province") replaced variable capital funding with a one-time debt support grant in 2009-10. The Board received a one-time grant that recognized capital debt as of August 31, 2010 that was supported by the existing capital programs. The Board receives this grant in cash over the remaining term of the existing capital debt instruments. The Board may also receive yearly capital grants to support capital programs which would be reflected in this account receivable.

The Board has an accounts receivable from the Province of \$ 72,809,073 as at August 31, 2017 (2016 - \$ 70,586,125) with respect to capital grants.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

3. Assets Held for Sale

As of August 31, 2017, net book values of \$ nil (2016 - \$ 618,477) related to buildings and \$ nil (2016 - \$ 852,639) related to land were reclassified from tangible capital assets to assets held for sale.

4. Deferred Revenue

Revenues received and that have been set aside for specific purposes by legislation, regulation or agreement are included in deferred revenue and reported on the consolidated statement of financial position.

Deferred revenue set-aside for specific purposes by legislation, regulation or agreement as at August 31, 2017 is comprised of:

	Balance, as at August 31, 2016 \$	Externally Restricted Revenue and Investment Income \$	Revenue and adjustments recognized in the period \$	Transfers to deferred capital contributions Revenue \$	Balance, as at August 31, 2017 \$
Retrofitting school spaces for child care	1,698,990	-	-	-	1,698,990
Proceeds of disposition	649,518	6,296,577	-	(805,205)	6,140,890
Assets held for sale	618,477	-	(618,477)	-	-
Education development charges	125,470	500,630	(44,269)	-	581,831
Land sale deposits	105,000	-	(105,000)	-	-
Mental health leader	49,728	121,161	(99,781)	-	71,108
Library staff	-	131,585	(115,774)	-	15,811
Indigenous education	-	165,520	(126,190)	-	39,330
Special education	2,014,170	790,047	(652,079)	-	2,152,138
Energy efficient schools - operating	10,522	-	-	-	10,522
Energy efficient schools - capital	251,490	-	-	-	251,490
School renewal	1,629,123	3,925,438	(1,102,587)	(1,547,908)	2,904,066
Education Programs - Other	527,299	3,021,656	(2,795,139)	-	753,816
Tuition	286,226	1,458,993	(872,204)	-	873,015
Miscellaneous	284,454	7,298	(95,456)	-	196,296
Total deferred revenue	8,250,467	16,418,905	(6,626,956)	(2,353,113)	15,689,303

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Retirement gratuities	4,200,459	4,901,206
Retirement health care benefits	263,640	132,118
Long-term disability health care benefits	2,088,436	2,671,813
WSIB - Schedule II future liability	2,440,219	1,657,453
Compensated absences	148,912	135,161
	9,141,666	9,497,751

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

Teachers and related employee groups are eligible to be members of Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Employer contributions for these employees are provided directly by the Province of Ontario. The pension costs and obligations related to this plan are a direct responsibility of the Province. Accordingly, no costs or liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System

All non-teaching employees of the Board are eligible to be members of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System ("OMERS"), a multi-employer pension plan. The plan provides defined pension benefits to employees based on their length of service and rates of pay. The Board contributions equal the employee contributions to the plan. During the year ended August 31, 2017, the Board contributed \$ 3,602,932 (2016 - \$ 3,499,229) to the plan. As this is a multi-employer pension plan, these contributions are the Board's pension benefit expenses. No pension liability for this type of plan is included in the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Retirement Gratuities

The Board provides retirement gratuities to certain groups of employees hired prior to specified dates. The Board provides these benefits through an unfunded defined benefit plan. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. The amount of the gratuities payable to eligible employees at retirement is based on their salary, accumulated sick days, and years of service as at August 31, 2012.

As at August 31, 2017, an unamortized actuarial loss of \$ 331,979 exists. This amount is being amortized over the expected average remaining service lives of several employee groups. The actual obligation is \$ 4,532,435.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Retirement Health Care Benefits

The Board continues to provide dental and health care benefits to certain employee groups after retirement until the members reach 65 years of age, with one exception to age 75. The premiums are based on the Board's experience and retirees' premiums are subsidized by the Board. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are provided through an unfunded defined benefit plan and are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. Effective September 1, 2013, employees retiring on or after this date, no longer qualified for Board subsidized premiums or contributions. As at August 31, 2017, the actual obligation is \$ 263,640.

Long-Term Disability Health Care Benefits

The Board provides dental and health care benefits to employees on long-term disability leave who are not yet members of an ELHT. The Board is responsible for the payment of the costs of health care benefits under this plan. The Board provides these benefits through an unfunded defined benefit plan. The costs of salary compensation paid to employees on long-term disability leave are fully insured and not included in this plan. As at August 31, 2017, the actual obligation is \$ 2,088,436.

WSIB - Schedule II Future Liability

The Board is a Schedule II employer under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and, as such, assumes responsibility for the payment of all claims to its injured workers under the Act. The Board does not fund these obligations in advance of payments made under the Act. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. School boards are required to provide salary top-up to a maximum of four and one-half years for employees receiving payments from WSIB, where the collective agreement negotiated prior to 2012 included such a provision. As at August 31, 2017, the actual obligation is \$ 2,440,219.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Compensated Absences

As a result of changes made in 2013 to the short-term sick leave and disability plan, a maximum of 11 unused sick leave days from the current year may be carried forward into the following year only, to be used to top-up salary for illnesses paid through the short-term leave and disability plan in that year. The net benefit costs expensed in the consolidated financial statements are \$ 13,751 (2016 - \$ 28,128).

For accounting purposes, the valuation of the accrued benefit obligation for the sick leave top-up is based on actuarial assumptions about future events determined as at August 31, 2017 and is based on the average daily salary and banked sick days of employees as at August 31, 2017.

As at August 31, 2017, the actual obligation is \$148,912.

Retirement gratuities:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	4,200,459	4,901,206
Employee benefit plan deficit	4,200,459	4,901,206

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	4,901,206	6,145,436
Benefit cost and interest	122,572	146,950
Amortized loss	74,975	30,241
Benefits paid during the year	(898,294)	(1,419,085)
Change due to plan curtailment	-	(2,336)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	4,200,459	4,901,206

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Retirement health care benefits:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	263,640	132,118
Employee benefit plan deficit	263,640	132,118

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	132,118	189,528
Benefit cost and interest	2,393	4,047
Change due to reinstatement of benefits	161,265	-
Amortized loss (gain)	(1,384)	(12,729)
Benefits paid during the year	(30,752)	(48,728)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	263,640	132,118

Long-term disability health care benefits:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	2,088,436	2,671,813
Employee benefit plan deficit	2,088,436	2,671,813

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	2,671,813	2,077,787
Benefit cost and interest expense (recovery)	(316,629)	838,474
Benefits paid during the year	(266,748)	(244,448)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	2,088,436	2,671,813

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits - continued

WSIB Schedule II future liability:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	2,440,219	1,657,453
Employee benefit plan deficit	2,440,219	1,657,453

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	1,657,453	1,669,257
Benefit cost and interest	1,291,458	266,729
Benefits paid during the year	(508,692)	(278,533)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	2,440,219	1,657,453

Compensated absences:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	148,912	135,161
Employee benefit plan deficit	148,912	135,161

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	135,161	107,033
Benefit cost and interest	148,912	135,161
Amortized loss	(9,068)	84,179
Benefits paid during the year	(126,093)	(191,212)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	148,912	135,161

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

5. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Actuarial Assumptions

The accrued benefit obligations for employee future benefit plans as at August 31, 2017 are based on the most recent actuarial valuations completed for accounting purposes. These valuations take into account the plan changes outlined above and the economic assumptions used in the valuations are the Board's best estimates of expected rates of:

General Inflation - Future general inflation levels were assumed to be 1.5% (2016 - 1.5%).

Interest (Discount) Rate - The present value of future liabilities and the expense were determined using a discount rate of 2.55% (2016 - 2.05%).

Wage and Salary Escalation - There is no salary increase assumption required as the benefit is based on August 31, 2012 salaries.

6. Net Long-Term Liabilities and Capital Leases

Debenture debt and capital lease debt reported on the consolidated statement of financial position comprises of the following:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Unmatured debenture debt	68,242,234	72,034,279
Sinking fund debentures	2,729,430	2,729,430
Obligations under capital leases	49,779	94,842
Less: Sinking fund assets	(904,041)	(802,533)
	70,117,402	74,056,018

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

6. Net Long-Term Liabilities and Capital Leases - continued

The net long-term debt outstanding bears interest at annual rates ranging from 2.425% to 6.55% maturing between 2017 and 2036. Principal and interest payments relating to net debenture debt and capital leases of \$ 70,117,402 outstanding as at August 31, 2017 are due as follow:

	Principal and Sinking Fund Contributions \$	Interest \$	Capital Lease Payments \$	Total \$
2018	6,723,756	3,577,342	15,841	10,316,939
2019	4,207,884	3,285,985	16,575	7,510,444
2020	4,433,353	3,060,516	17,363	7,511,232
2021	4,671,418	2,829,451	-	7,500,869
2022	4,786,423	2,571,066	-	7,357,489
Thereafter	46,148,830	11,812,210	-	57,961,040
	70,971,664	27,136,570	49,779	98,158,013

Included in net debenture debt are outstanding sinking fund debentures of \$ 2,729,430 (2016 - \$ 2,729,430) secured by sinking fund assets with a carrying value of \$ 904,041 (market value - \$ 904,041). Sinking fund assets are comprised of bank deposits.

7. Deferred Capital Contributions

Deferred capital contributions include grants and contributions received that are used for the acquisition of tangible capital assets in accordance with Regulation 395/11 that have been expended by year end. These contributions are amortized into revenue over the life of the asset acquired.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Balance, beginning of year	172,995,333	173,248,564
Additions to deferred capital contributions	18,475,306	10,330,246
Recognition of deferred revenue related to prior eligible capital expenses	59,578	117,718
Revenue recognized in the period	(11,236,763)	(10,624,110)
Unsupported capital spending	(195,548)	(77,085)
Balance, end of year	180,097,906	172,995,333

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

8. Accumulated Surplus

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Available for Compliance Operating fund	475,600	266,047
Available for Compliance - Internally Appropriated WSIB		928,687
Capital planning capacity - unspent	169,755	152,613
Committed sinking fund interest	684,655	665,780
Pupil accommodation	-	109,871
Greenshield Surplus	152,787	-
Committed capital	6,280,649	6,505,117
	7,287,846	8,362,068
Unavailable for Compliance		
Amounts to be recovered - employee future benefits	(6,770,890)	(7,852,529)
Interest accrued	(1,176,749)	(1,239,481)
School activities fund	2,188,102	2,137,839
Revenues recognized for land purchases	8,889,726	9,554,711
	3,130,189	2,600,540
	10,893,635	11,228,655

9. Trust Funds

Trust Funds administered by the Board, which have not been included on the consolidated statement of financial position nor have their operations been included on the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus, are comprised of the following:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Larkin Award Fund	19,517	16,801
Kristen French Scholarship Fund	119,854	121,744
Marion Oakley Fund	5,703	5,651
Nicole Longe Memorial Fund	6,093	6,236
James and Anna McGarry	8,170	8,196
Teachers Finance Leave Plan	1,499,805	1,460,239
Michael and Isabelle Moran	49,046	49,599
Hugo and Corrinne Massotti	53,583	53,596
	1,761,771	1,722,062

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

10. Debt Charges and Capital Lease Interest

The expenditure for debt charges and capital lease interest includes principal, sinking fund contributions and interest payments as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Principal payments on long-term capital loans and sinking fund contributions	3,893,539	4,773,408
Interest payments on long-term capital loans	3,794,683	4,040,489
	7,688,222	8,813,897

The expenditure for capital leases is allocated to the related expenditure category. The total principal, sinking fund contributions and interest payments for capital leases are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Principal payments on capital leases	45,077	46,212
Interest payments on capital leases	18,825	4,719
	63,902	50,931

11. Expenditures by Object

The following is a summary of the expenses reported on the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus by object:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current expenditures:		
Salaries and wages	178,823,144	181,274,780
Employee benefits	30,139,836	29,979,806
Staff development	480,453	539,344
Supplies and services	19,658,404	19,249,632
Interest	3,813,508	4,045,208
Rental expenditures	595,227	557,354
Fee and contract services	11,931,605	11,940,348
	245,442,177	247,586,472
Amortization of tangible capital assets	11,657,535	11,019,100
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	11,055
School funded activities	6,841,629	8,243,221
Total expenditures by object	263,941,341	266,859,848

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

12. Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange

The Board is a member of the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange ("OSBIE"), a reciprocal insurance company licensed under the Insurance Act. OSBIE insures general public liability, property damage and certain other risks. Liability insurance is available to a maximum of \$ 24,000,000 per occurrence.

The ultimate premiums over a five year period are based on the reciprocal's and the Board's actual claims experience. Periodically, the Board may receive a refund or be asked to pay an additional premium based on its pro-rata share of claims experience. The current five year term expires December 31, 2021.

13. Related Party Transactions

Related party transactions during the year not separately disclosed in the consolidated financial statements include the following:

An amount of \$ 123,744 has been received from the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and recorded net of related expenditures.

14. Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities

Legal

As at August 31, 2017, the Board has certain legal claims outstanding. It is management's assertion that adequate defenses and insurance coverages are in effect for the settlement of these claims, if necessary.

Letters of Credit

The Board has authorized letters of credit in favour of the City of St. Catharines in the amount of \$ 35,029, the Township of West Lincoln in the amount of \$ 1,051,732, the City of Niagara Falls in the amount of \$ 5,000, and the Town of Port Colborne in the amount of \$ 314,749. All of these letters of credit relate to site plan deposits. These letters of credit are covered under the security as described under credit facilities in note 16.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2017

15. Commitments

Capital Expenditures

The Board is committed to spending approximately \$ 22,400,000 on capital projects in the following year.

Lease Obligations

The Board is committed to make the following minimum future lease payments under several operating leases over the next five years:

	\$
2018 -	695,885
2019 -	262,086
2020 -	173,554
2021 -	101,838
2022 -	101,838

16. Credit Facilities

The Board has two facilities available at any time for use. Credit facility #1 is a revolving demand operating credit available in the amount of \$ 12,000,000 for use for current expenditures only and bears interest at prime less 0.5%. Credit facility #2 is a revolving demand instalment loan in the amount of \$ 500,000 to finance capital expenditures which would bear interest at prime. Further, the Board has a \$ 230,000 Corporate VISA and \$ 900,000 VISA purchase card credit facility available. As at August 31, 2017, \$ 1,406,510 has been drawn upon by way of letters of credit as per note 14 against credit facility #1 and no balance against credit facility #2. Security is by way of executed by-laws in compliance with applicable legislative requirements.

17. Niagara Student Transportation Services Consortium

On March 6, 2007, the Board entered into an agreement with the District School Board of Niagara ("DSBN") to provide common administration of student transportation services. On March 9, 2007, Niagara Student Transportation Services ("NSTS") was incorporated under the Corporations Act of Ontario. Each Board participates in the shared costs associated with this service for the transportation of their respective students through NSTS. No Board is in a position to exercise unilateral control.

The entity is proportionately consolidated in the Board's consolidated financial statements to reflect the Board's pro-rata share of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Inter-organizational transactions and balances between these organizations are eliminated.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

Schedule 1

for the year ended August 31, 2017

	Cost			Accumulated Amortization				Net Book Value	
	Balance, Beginning of Year	Additions	Disposals	Balance, End of Year	Balance, Beginning of Year	Amortization	Disposals		Balance, End of Year
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Land	8,702,071	187,654	-	8,889,725	-	-	-	-	8,889,725
Land improvements	9,973,381	1,974,775	142,383	11,805,773	2,861,944	733,867	142,383	3,453,428	8,352,345
Buildings	268,176,997	10,616,606	-	278,793,603	102,094,290	10,148,636	-	112,242,926	166,550,677
Portable structures	4,019,800	-	-	4,019,800	3,817,884	87,348	-	3,905,232	114,568
Equipment	716,959	8,054	357,836	367,177	483,767	108,414	357,836	234,345	132,832
First-time equipping	1,564,041	32,803	1,349	1,595,495	483,001	158,044	1,349	639,696	955,799
Furniture	96,973	5,544	6,985	95,532	32,612	7,911	6,985	33,538	61,994
Computer hardware	1,408,893	569,665	283,777	1,694,781	591,891	289,383	283,777	597,497	1,097,284
Computer software	130,277	243,796	94,856	279,217	107,284	32,048	94,856	44,476	234,741
Vehicles	239,526	77,289	70,134	246,681	116,426	48,621	70,134	94,913	151,768
Computers under capital lease	174,385	-	-	174,385	36,442	34,877	-	71,319	103,066
Leasehold improvements	-	83,865	-	83,865	-	8,386	-	8,386	75,479
Construction in progress	4,428,108	4,862,911	-	9,291,019	-	-	-	-	9,291,019
August 31, 2017	299,631,411	18,662,962	957,320	317,337,053	110,625,541	11,657,535	957,320	121,325,756	196,011,297
Land	9,496,050	58,660	852,639	8,702,071	-	-	-	-	8,702,071
Land improvements	9,149,764	1,153,351	329,734	9,973,381	2,547,385	633,238	318,679	2,861,944	7,111,437
Buildings	259,295,590	10,507,315	1,625,908	268,176,997	93,730,055	9,371,666	1,007,431	102,094,290	166,082,707
Portable structures	4,019,800	-	-	4,019,800	3,614,894	202,990	-	3,817,884	201,916
Equipment	1,112,327	104,759	500,127	716,959	814,048	169,846	500,127	483,767	233,192
First-time equipping	1,608,650	87,721	132,330	1,564,041	456,764	158,567	132,330	483,001	1,081,040
Furniture	71,651	34,295	8,973	96,973	30,601	10,984	8,973	32,612	64,361
Computer hardware	2,273,555	588,457	1,453,119	1,408,893	1,655,781	389,229	1,453,119	591,891	817,002
Computer software	130,277	-	-	130,277	90,130	17,154	-	107,284	22,993
Vehicles	168,813	70,713	-	239,526	77,940	38,486	-	116,426	123,100
Computers under capital lease	95,019	79,366	-	174,385	9,502	26,940	-	36,442	137,943
Construction in progress	6,094,306	3,667,897	5,334,095	4,428,108	-	-	-	-	4,428,108
August 30, 2016	293,515,802	16,352,534	10,236,925	299,631,411	103,027,100	11,019,100	3,420,659	110,625,541	189,005,870

See accompanying notes

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2017

The Financial Report as at October 31, 2017 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: November 21, 2017



**REPORT TO THE BOARD
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Financial Report is presented in Appendix A

Also attached;

Appendix B1 – Financial Report as at October 31, 2016

The Financial Report as at October 31, 2017 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: November 21, 2017



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OCTOBER 31, 2017

The year-to-date October 2017-2018 financials reflect our Original Estimates submitted to the Ministry of Education in June of 2017. Niagara Catholic has accurately projected the decline in school enrolment for the start of the 2017-2018 school year and was able to adjust its cost structure accordingly. A decline in approximately 450 students has resulted in an adjustment of our 2017-2018 cost structure, which has allowed Niagara Catholic to strive towards a balanced portfolio for August 2018.

The investment in classroom teachers to achieve new Ministry of Education class size aggregates in K and Grade 4 to Grade 8 have been factored in for September 1, 2017. Also, Niagara Catholic has invested in local priority funding for both OECTA and CUPE, these funds were negotiated through central bargaining. This additional local investment has increased our compliment of Resource Teachers, Classroom Teachers, Educational Assistants and other CUPE staff. Moreover, this funding has helped offset greater reductions in FTEs for our unionized staff due to our 2017-2018 declining enrolment.

The final phase of the Provincial Employee Life and Health Trust solution for CUPE and Non Union staff is expected to commence for March 1, 2018. This group includes CUPE, Non Union, Principals and Senior Administration. Our current benefit provider will continue to provide coverage until that time. The original estimates had an increase of approximately 7.0% in benefit costs that was effective for October 1, 2017 and will continue until all staff is removed from our current provider.

The total commitment to fringe benefits calculated for the original estimates are expected to be approximately \$29.2M for Niagara Catholic in fiscal 2017-2018 a reduction from \$30.1M in 2016-2017. This reduction in our 2017-2018 estimates reflects the provincial strategy to continue to stabilize fringe benefit costs with the new Employee Life Health Trust. It should be noted that GSN funding has been adjusted to reflect this reduction in expenditures for fiscal 2017-2018.

Niagara Catholic has had to earmark approximately \$6.2M in replacement costs for all staff. The number of occurrences related to illnesses trended higher in 2016-2017 and additional resources have been allocated to deal with this cost pressure. Strategies to reduce the cost pressures associated with replacement costs continue to be explored.

Niagara Catholic continues to monitor the impact of the January 1, 2018 provincial minimum wage increase to our current service providers. Initial cost pressures in transportation and cafeteria services have been identified. Mid-year strategies to cope with these rising expenditures will need to be addressed through potential service changes or reduction in revenue expectations for 2017-2018.

The revised estimates will be presented to the Board of Trustees at our December Board Meeting. The revised estimates will include October 31st actual enrolment and a revised reconciliation of our 2017-2018 Grants for Student Needs funding.

**Niagara Catholic DSB
2017-18 Interim Financial Report**

For the Month Ending October 31, 2017

Summary of Financial Results

(\$Thousands)	Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			\$	%
Revenue				
Operating Grants	228,732	228,732	-	0.0%
Capital Grants	25,234	25,234	-	0.0%
Other	14,800	14,800	-	0.0%
Total Revenue	268,766	268,766	-	0.0%
Expenditures				
Classroom	204,036	204,298	262	0.1%
Other Operating	7,889	7,826	(63)	(0.8%)
Transportation	9,829	9,834	5	0.1%
Pupil Accomodation	37,820	37,744	(76)	(0.2%)
Other	8,180	8,180	-	0.0%
PSAB Adjustments	1,005	1,005	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	268,759	268,887	128	0.0%
In-Year Surplus (Deficit)	7	(121)	(121)	#DIV/0!
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	10,894	10,894	-	0.0%
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) for Compliance	10,901	10,773	(121)	(1.1%)

Changes in Revenue

- Addition to funding for increase in enrolment between Estimate stage and Sept 1 has not been reflected

Change in Expenditures

- Additional expenditures for increase staffing between estimates and Sept 1 has not been reflected.

Change in Reserve

- N/A

Change in Surplus/Deficit

- At revised estimates stage, revenues will be updated to reflect enrolment and staffing increase.

Risks & Recommendations

- N/A

Summary of Enrolment

ADE	Fiscal 2016-2017	Original Estimates	Forecast	Yr Over Yr Chg	
				#	%
Elementary					
JK -3	7,026	6,774	6,844	(252)	-3.7%
4-8	7,686	7,637	7,637	(49)	-0.6%
Total Elementary	14,712	14,411	14,481	(301)	-2.1%
Secondary <21					
Pupils of the Board	6,991	6,807	6,807	(184)	-2.7%
Other Pupils	75	84	84	9	10.7%
Total Secondary	7,066	6,891	6,891	(175)	-2.5%
Total	21,778	21,302	21,372	(476)	-2.2%

Note: Forecast will be based on October 31st count date

Changes in Enrolment: LY Fiscal Year v. Original Estimates



Highlights of Changes in Enrolment:

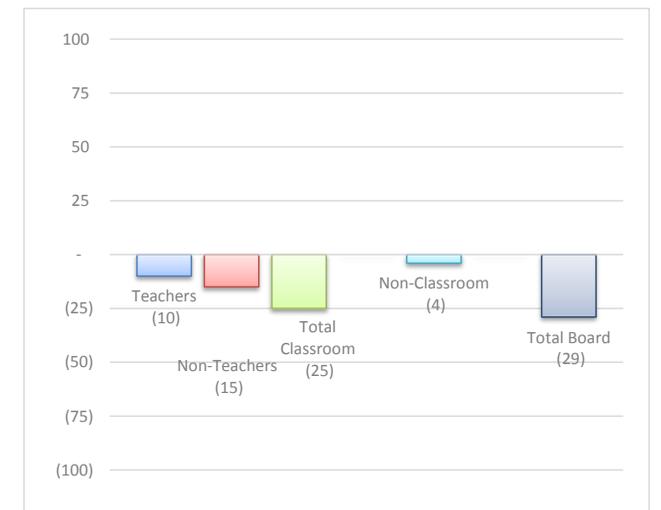
- Forecast is projected to be the same as revised estimates at this stage

*

Summary of Staffing

FTE	Fiscal 2016-2017	Original Estimates	Yr Over Yr Chg	
			#	%
Classroom				
Teachers	1,341	1,331	(10)	-0.7%
CUPE	782	767	(15)	-1.9%
Total Classroom	2,123	2,098	(25)	-1.2%
Non-Union	194	190	(4)	-2.1%
Total	2,317	2,288	(29)	-1.3%

Changes in Staffing: LY Fiscal v. Original Estimates



Highlights of Changes in Staffing:

- Forecast is projected to be the same as revised estimates at this stage

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – NOVEMBER 7, 2017**



November 7, 2017

Pilgrims Raise More Than \$160,000 for Developing World

Niagara Catholic's 2017 Annual Pilgrimage raised more than \$160,000 for projects in the developing world.

The Pilgrimage took place on October 29 in Grimsby, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland.

During the November 7 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Superintendent of Education Ted Farrell shared with Trustees the amounts raised by each school, and the projects they supported:

Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School - \$20,000 (a record amount for the school)



Approximately 430 students, staff, and supporters of the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Annual Pilgrimage participated in the walk which had the theme of *Two Families, One World*. This is the 15th year for the BT Pilgrimage, which supports projects in the Dominican Republic.

Denis Morris Catholic High School - \$15,000



Approximately 475 pilgrims from Denis Morris Catholic High School walked from the school to Market Square, where they met walkers from Holy Cross and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary Schools for Mass and a walk through the community.

This is the 24th year for Denis Morris's participation in the Pilgrimage, and their walk was in recognition of Pope Francis's words "*Mercy is not easy ... it requires courage.*"

The funds raised by the DM Pilgrimage will be shared by L'Ecole Immaculee Conception in Pilate, Haiti, Wells of Hope Projects in the Jalapa region of Guatemala and local charities.

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School – \$10,000



The theme of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School's 2017 Pilgrimage was *The Future is in the Hands of You and Me*.

This year, 200 Raiders walked through the streets of St. Catharines as a school, and as a larger group with students from Denis Morris and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School to support projects of the Holy Cross Fathers and

Sisters in Haiti, including Regina Assumpta Elementary and Secondary Schools and the Holy Cross Elementary School.

Their fundraising also supports housing, food and medical aid for those in need.

Lakeshore Catholic High School - \$10,000



The 2017 Gatorwalk had the theme *Walk of Champions*, and this year, more than 200 Gator staff, students and supporters took part.

The Lakeshore Catholic pilgrims walked through the streets of Port Colborne and along the Friendship Trail, raising money for

their brothers and sisters in Dominica. Projects there supported included St. John's Elementary School, CALLS Alternative Living Centre, the Portsmouth Public Library and CARE distribution Centre.

Notre Dame College School - \$38,000



Where it all began! This year marked the 42nd year for the Annual Pilgrimage at Notre Dame College School, and a remarkable 900 students, staff and supporters raised \$38,000 for the Annual Pilgrimage.

This year's theme was *Balancing the Scales of Justice*, and focused heavily on the Catholic social teachings of solidarity, common good, dignity of the human person,

dignity of work and preferential option for the poor.

The Notre Dame Pilgrims walked through the streets of Welland to raise the funds, which will be divided between Development and Peace, Yancana Huasy in Lima, Peru, and the Dominican Canadian Community Development Group.

Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School - \$31,000



More than 300 Phoenix were joined by 30 staff and parent pilgrims to walk toward downtown St. Catharines in their Pilgrimage, which had the theme *Where is the Love?*

The funds raised by the Saint Francis Pilgrimage support Marie Immaculee School and Porte du Ciel Orphanage in Haiti, the Centre d'Esperanza and Fog Quest in

Guatemala, and the Dominican Canadian Organic Farming Project in the Dominican Republic.

Saint Michael Catholic High School - \$21,000



More than 450 Pilgrims from Saint Michael Catholic High School were joined by students from Saint Paul Catholic High School, walking through the streets of Niagara Falls to support their individual causes.

The theme of the 2017 Pilgrimage was Walk On, with a message to continue to walk the walk, regardless of the challenges

in our lives. The funds raised by Saint Michael Catholic High School's Pilgrimage supports the Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund.

Saint Paul Catholic High School – \$16,000



The Saint Paul Pilgrimage, held in collaboration with Saint Michael Catholic High School, raised \$16,000 for projects in Haiti.

This year's theme was *Where is the Love?*, and supported students at Ste. Croix de Milot, in Milot, Haiti.

View photos from the 2016 Pilgrimage [here](#).

Capital Projects Update

During the November 7 Committee of the Whole Meetings, Trustees received an update on capital projects within the Board.

The new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School opened in September 2017, and all that remains to be completed now are deficiency repairs from construction.

Work continues at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in Grimsby, where a six classroom/three child-care room addition is under construction. Electrical and plumbing work is ongoing in the areas, and the building is expected to be weather-tight by the end of November.

Mark Your Calendars

Be sure to mark your calendars for Niagara Catholic's 2017 Fall Kindergarten Open House and Registration Day on November 22 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. If you or someone you know has a child starting school this year, plan to attend the Open House and join the Niagara Catholic family in September 2018.

Our Catholic secondary school open houses take place between November 21 and 30. Find out why Niagara Catholic has Niagara's best graduation rate, and one of the top four graduation rates in Ontario by stopping by the open house for the Niagara Catholic secondary school in our community.

Good News!

We've had an incredible first two months of the school year! If you haven't done it yet, be sure to check our [Good News](#) section of this website to see great stories on the programs and events taking place in our schools. Then check out the In the News section for media coverage of many of these stories, 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
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

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



DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	1
3 First Sunday in Advent	4	5 Annual Organizational Meeting/	6 SEAC Meeting	7	8	9
10 Second Sunday in Advent	11	12	13 Director , Trustees, Chaplaincy Leader and Parish Priests' Faith Formation Luncheon	14	15	16
17 Third Sunday in Advent	18	19 Board Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Christmas Eve	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Christmas Break December 25, 2017—January 8, 2018			

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
OCSTA INFORMATION – NOVEMBER 3 & 10, 2017**

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-november-3/

November 3, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

COLLEGE STATIONS – With polls showing the governing Liberals still facing a monumental challenge in trying to get re-elected, the last thing they need is to be sucked into the vortex of a bitter labour dispute. So they have their fingers crossed that talks to end the three-weeks-and-counting strike by 12,000 college faculty will quickly bear fruit. Technically, the government isn't actually a party to the negotiations, which pits college management against workers represented by OPSEU (the provincial civil service union). But Queen's Park is involved – quite literally, in that the Legislature grounds were the site of not one but two strike-related rallies this week. Wednesday it was students calling for government intervention to save their semester, and Thursday it was a union-led protest to show support for the strikers. Premier **Kathleen Wynne** wouldn't rule out back-to-work legislation, but got some hope when the two sides returned to the bargaining table late this week. Seven months before the provincial election, the Liberals have plenty to lose depending on how this plays out: Irk organized labour and they risk losing the on-the-ground support that has contributed to their election wins since 2003; facilitate an expensive settlement and they potentially stoke Opposition claims of fiscal mismanagement.

SPINNING A 45 – Speaking of polls showing the Liberals trailing in popularity, the latest from Forum Research is rather emphatic in that category. Conducted last week – albeit before two Liberal operatives were acquitted on bribery charges – Forum found the Tories with a whopping 45% support, compared to just 24% for the Liberals and, in what amounts to a statistical tie, 22% for the NDP.

NOMS IN THE NEWS – As well as campaigning to stay on as Premier come next June, Wynne also aspires to continue as the MPP for Don Valley West. Wynne was formally nominated – unopposed, of course – as the Liberal candidate for the riding at an event in Leaside last Sunday. Meanwhile, in other nomination developments:

- A potential bellwether battle is shaping up for the new seat of Scarborough North. Toronto Councillor **Chin Lee** announced that he will run for the Liberals, going head-to-head against PC incumbent – and also former Toronto Councillor – **Raymond Cho**. The new riding, carved out of portions of Scarborough-Agincourt and Scarborough-Rouge River, includes some neighbourhoods that both had as constituencies when they were on council.
- The Tories have landed another big-name candidate, with **Rod Phillips** running for the nomination in Ajax. Phillips was a senior staffer in the Harris government, went on to run Toronto Mayor **Mel Lastman**'s office, was CEO of Ontario Lottery and Gaming and is currently chair of Postmedia. Assuming he gets the PC nod, he'll be trying to unseat Liberal **Joe Dickson**, whose Ajax-Pickering riding will be split.

INJURIOUS GEORGE – One Liberal who apparently won't be on the ballot in June is ex-Deputy Premier **George Smitherman** – and he's not happy about it. Smitherman caused a stir with a Facebook post this week suggesting he wanted to attempt a provincial comeback in Toronto Centre but was stymied by party brass. "These last couple of months I uncovered a terrible truth about today's Ontario Liberal Party. The grassroots have all but died off," he wrote, in what is tantamount to treason in partisan politics. He blamed Wynne directly, complaining that what had been a Liberal stronghold has a weak riding association, but "the leader's first and only instinct was to suffocate the only real opportunity to give birth again to the grass roots [sic] nomination process that is open to all and was once the standard for our democracy." He even made reference to the bribery trial – obviously a sore spot for Liberals – by sniping, "Just like in Sudbury rather than do the heavy lifting and nurture the grassroots the leader's preference is apparently the same, that is poach a politician from another party and hope that name recognition carries the day. I think that luck is going to end badly for the Liberals." Smitherman – who left Queen's Park to run for Toronto mayor in the 2010 election, but lost to **Rob Ford** – concluded his rant by pledging to run municipally again, in the Toronto seat previously held by the late **Pam McConnell**.

NORTH POLL – As PC Leader **Patrick Brown**'s big policy forum approaches – the "2017 Election Readiness and Policy Convention" is slated for Toronto's Congress Centre November 25 – he has started setting some ground rules for how the policy proposals will or won't come forward. For starters, he declared that 10 (of the overall 139) motions pertaining specifically to Northern Ontario can only be debated and voted on by delegates from that part of the province. "Ontario is a diverse province, but there is no region more unique than the North. That's why I strongly believe that northerners should have the final say on some of the major issues specific to the region," Brown said in a news release. So far it's the only group to have special voting status.

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

CRASH AND BERN

While Premier Wynne was basking in the reflected glow of the left-wing love-in for U.S. Senator **Bernie Sanders** last weekend (see For the Record, below), some New Democrats were reportedly miffed at what they saw as Wynne scooping their moment. Yes, she's the Premier, but there was grumbling that her private meetings with Sanders and platform to introduce him enabled her to once again outflank the NDP on the left. Despite the predominantly NDP crowd, Wynne's introductory speech was met with warm, and occasionally loud applause, such as when she spoke about issues dear to the left like hiking the minimum wage. Newly-elected federal NDP Leader **Jagmeet Singh** was not on the program, but he was at the event and was recognized during the thank-you after Sanders spoke. Ontario NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** was nowhere to be seen – nor did she or her office tweet about Sanders' visit.

IN THE HOUSE

- Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** introduced Bill 174, the *Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act*, to regulate the use and distribution of recreational cannabis when it is legalized by the federal government in July 2018.
- Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister **Marie-France Lalonde** introduced Bill 175, the *Safer Ontario Act*, touted as the "largest policing transformation in a generation," including measures to mandate local community safety planning and modernize police oversight.
- Private member's bills rarely pass, but a couple introduced this week succeeded in at least generating some buzz – and their titles are certainly amusing. Liberal **Yvan Baker**'s *Phones Down, Heads Up Act* – immediately dubbed the "Zombie Law" – would penalize pedestrians for crossing the street while looking at their mobile devices; PC **Norm Miller**'s *Reducing Waste One Pod at a Time Act* would mandate that all Keurig-style coffee pods be compostable.

FOR THE RECORD

“It is a shame, it is a disgrace. That is what happens when billionaires are able to buy a political party. Don’t let it happen in Canada.”

- Independent U.S. Senator **Bernie Sanders**— the former Democratic presidential nominee widely embraced as the darling of the left – decrying the American healthcare system, at a sold-out speech at the University of Toronto last weekend.
-

“In this period of rapid social and economic change, someone like Senator Sanders encourages us to think big, and take bold steps to build the kind of world we want to live in.”

- Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, who met with and then introduced Sanders at the Toronto event.
-

“The people of the province got to watch what the inner workings of the Liberal party looks like and it wasn’t pretty. It was really disappointing to see the premier testifying at the trial. [But] at the end of the day, the justice system does the work that it does.”

- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, not about to let the Liberals off the hook despite the acquittal of two senior operatives on bribery charges in Sudbury.
-

“In all relationships, sometimes you take a little break. And this was like a summer break. And now we’re back here in the fall and we’re doing things together, and we’re doing things for the benefit of the people we both serve.”

- Toronto Mayor **John Tory**, intimating that things are all patched up between him and Wynne, after a very public spat earlier this year.

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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November 10, 2017



WEEKLY ROUNDUP

POLICY ACADEMY – Few exercises elicit simultaneous enthusiasm and cynicism quite like “grassroots engagement” as political parties develop their election platforms. Idealists embrace the opportunity to have a say in the democratic process, keen to draw attention to their pet issues, while skeptics scoff at lip service, convinced that party brass will cherry-pick the input then do whatever they want anyway. Against this backdrop, both the Liberals and PCs have embarked on extensive outreach campaigns. Premier **Kathleen Wynne** kicked off the Liberals’ “Common Ground” promotion at the party’s provincial council meeting in Kitchener last weekend, gushing, “I know you have great ideas and I want to hear what you think would make Ontario better – in any and every way!” and promising that the “top ideas” will be included in the platform (albeit with no specific criteria about what defines “top” – see skepticism, above.) Visitors to the Common Ground website can submit ideas and/or vote on others’ proposals, but the scores are non-binding, and the party makes it clear it reserves the right to choose as it sees fit. **Patrick Brown**’s Tories, meanwhile, are in the process of gauging grassroots views on the scores of motions put forward for their big policy convention later this month. Many of those proposals are vague and aspirational (hard to imagine anyone being against a motion to “create a world-class home care system”) but party members are voting online in the run-up to the conference, and the tallies will at least partly guide the conference flow. Presumably the NDP will eventually go down a similar path – although for now their platform deliberations are strictly internal.

STANDING (FOR) PAT – Aside from launching the policy crowdsourcing, last weekend’s Liberal meeting was notable mostly for the triumphant return of operations guru **Pat Sorbara**, fresh off being acquitted on bribery charges stemming from the 2015 Sudbury by-election. Sorbara, who is known to shun the spotlight, was reportedly surprised to be introduced to the crowd and seemed genuinely moved by the standing ovation that greeted her when she did take the stage. Getting back Sorbara’s organizational prowess has given downhearted Liberals – reeling every time a poll comes out showing them trailing badly – some hope their campaign ship can be righted. They also took heart at the relatively large turnout for the provincial council meetings, with representatives from 76 ridings. This was interpreted as a sign of strong grassroots support – contrary to the Facebook musings of former Deputy Premier **George Smitherman**, whose anti-Wynne post (after his aspirations for a return to provincial politics were rebuffed by the party) was a hot topic of hallway conversation at the Kitchener gathering.

AGE OF INNOCENCE – Another big chatter topic – not just among Liberals but throughout Queen’s Park – is the

court cases involving Liberal operatives, and whether the political climate will change in the absence of convictions. Sorbara has already been cleared, and the most serious charges against former senior aides **David Livingston** and **Laura Miller** have also been dropped, in recognition that there isn't enough evidence to support breach of trust. On lesser charges, mischief related to data and unauthorized use of computers, Judge **Timothy Lipson** decided to keep the trial going, rejecting the defence argument that the whole thing should be dismissed. Lipson was careful to explain that his ruling is not a finding of guilt, only that it is still a possibility. As the trial continues, Livingston and Miller will present their defence, but the proceedings will now last at least until January. That's unfortunate for the Liberals, in that if there is a conviction it will come close to the start of the election campaign. Of course, even if Livingston and Miller are acquitted, the other parties, having touted the trials as symptomatic of Liberal corruption, aren't about to abandon that narrative. Indeed, as the editors of the *Toronto Sun* – no fans of the Liberals – wrote, “The guilt or innocence of the accused is up to the courts. Whether what the Liberals did was wrong is up to the public to decide.”

IT'S ACADEMIC – As the strike by 12,000 college faculty drags on, political parties at Queen's Park are bracing for government intervention that now seems inevitable. They all breathed a sigh of relief last week when contract negotiations resumed and a settlement appeared nigh. But on Monday the talks broke off again, with the College Employer Council – representing management of the province's 24 colleges – asking the Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote on the current offer on the table. It's possible the strikers will accept the deal, but that is unlikely given that their OPSEU leadership is unequivocally urging them to reject it. In the meantime, some 500,000 college students are still out of class, worried about losing the entire semester. Some 105 MPPs are equally worried about how this plays out, feeling the heat from angry constituents and preparing for the very real possibility of back-to-work legislation. Premier Wynne pleaded for patience – “I'm not going to preempt a vote. Let the process unfold,” she said after being confronted by protestors at a Hamilton-area seniors centre – while Advanced Education Minister **Deb Matthews** again played the empathy card, offering, “I know students are feeling the effects of this strike deeply and I share their concern.”

GETTING EVEN – The college strike, like every other issue right now, has to be viewed through the prism of how it might affect next year's election, and each party is vigilantly scrutinizing shifts in public opinion. While most polls continue to show the Tories with a substantial lead in popularity, Campaign Research surveys suggest a much closer race. A new poll published in the *Toronto Star* found Liberal support holding steady at 32%, but that puts them a point closer to the frontrunning PCs, who dropped to 35% support from 36% a month ago. Campaign Research reported NDP support down a couple of points to 23%, with those two points apparently picked up by the Green Party, who were backed by 9% of the respondents.

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

PLAYING TO WINDSOR

Former Ontario NDP Deputy Leader **Jagmeet Singh**'s ascension to the federal party leadership continues to reverberate around Queen's Park. The latest speculation has him pondering Windsor as a possible place to seek a federal seat. (Singh, who represented a Brampton-area riding provincially, has pledged to lead the federal NDP from outside the House of Commons, but he will face increasing pressure to land a seat so he can join debates and Question Period.) Windsor used to be a Liberal stronghold, but the NDP swept all three ridings – two Windsor seats and the surrounding Essex – in 2014. If the city becomes Singh's home base, that kind of presence would take much of the air out of Liberal efforts to win them back.

IN THE HOUSE

- The Legislature was dark this week, as MPPs headed to their home ridings for the lead up to Remembrance Day services. They're also off Monday (a government holiday because Remembrance Day falls on a Saturday), then return Tuesday for a five-week stint – the longest continuous stretch of the entire

parliamentary calendar, before the winter break scheduled for December 14.

FOR THE RECORD

“The Liberals’ approach seems to ramp up criminalization of pot outside the government monopoly, which undermines the reasons for legalizing it in the first place.”

- Ontario Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, opposing the Liberal government’s *Cannabis Act* that sets out the guidelines for sale and consumption of marijuana once the federal government makes it legal on July 1.
-

“If this is an example of what we may face under a PC government it’s all the more reason to consider a party that speaks for you and only you. By the way, Vic, ‘GAME ON’.”

- Northern Ontario Party Leader **Trevor Holliday**, throwing down the gauntlet to Nipissing PC MPP **Vic Fedeli**, after the latter accused the NOP of attempting to mislead Northerners with “false facts.”
-

“This is what I would call the nuclear response to some really specific problems.”

- London medical officer of health **Chris Mackie**, arguing that the government’s plan to scrap local health units and create 14 larger public health agencies across the province is a serious over-reaction.
-

“Devastating news about Toronto @bluejays legend @RoyHalladay. The ‘doc’ was truly one of our all-time greats. #RIP.”

- Tweet from PC Leader **Patrick Brown**, known as a huge sports fan, following the death of former Toronto Blue Jays ace pitcher **Roy Halladay** in a plane crash.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LETTER TO CHAIRS –
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING**

**Education Assessment
Secretariat**

Mowat Block, 12th floor
900 Bay St. Queen's Park
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**Secrétariat de l'évaluation de
l'éducation**

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November 9, 2017

Dear Chairs,

As Ontario begins the work to refresh curriculum and continues to focus on excellence, equity, well-being and confidence in our publicly funded education system, it is necessary to review Ontario's assessment approaches at the classroom, school, board, provincial (i.e. EQAO), national and international levels.

As the Education Advisors to the Premier and Minister of Education, Dr. Jean Clinton, Dr. Michael Fullan, Dr. Andy Hargreaves, Dr. Carl James, Kahontakwas Diane Longboat, and I have been asked to conduct an independent review of education assessment in Ontario.

Through the consultation process our intention is to stimulate conversations to inform potential recommendations concerning future assessment and reporting practices in Ontario. Some of the questions we are asking include:

- What information about student learning do students, parents/caregivers, educators and the public need?
- What have we learned since Ontario started large scale student assessment more than 20 years ago?
- What changes should we make to ensure that any assessment we do helps to improve student learning?

A discussion paper will help guide our conversations with you, parents/caregivers, school board and school leaders, teachers, students and community groups over the next couple of months.

Regional engagement sessions are planned across the province to engage a range of people with diverse perspectives. In each location, there will be an afternoon session targeted for area school boards and an evening session primarily for parents/caregivers and the public/broader community. There will be an opportunity for attendees to participate in English or French in all locations, however in Sudbury and Toronto, we will have French sessions separately.

City	Date
Ottawa	Wednesday, November 22
Barrie	Monday, November 27

Sudbury (English and French)	Thursday, November 30
Windsor	Monday, December 4
Hamilton	Tuesday, December 5
Toronto (English and French)	Friday, December 8
Thunder Bay	Tuesday, December 12

Each school board in a region has been asked to identify up to 12 representatives for the afternoon session nearest them. The evening session will provide an additional opportunity for any interested individuals to participate.

More details about both afternoon and evening sessions, including registration information, will be shared with you by November 15th.

In addition to the regional consultations, there will be an opportunity to participate via online submissions. We will email you again as soon as our website and discussion paper are available.

The input we gather directly from parents/caregivers, students, educators, officials and the broader community will be used along with a review of the current model of assessment and reporting and research on provincial, national and international best practices to develop actionable recommendations for improvement.

We are committed to keeping you updated throughout the process. If you have any questions, please email educationassessment@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Campbell

And on behalf of

Dr. Jean Clinton, Dr. Michael Fullan, Dr. Andy Hargreaves, Dr. Carl James and Kahontakwas Diane Longboat

- C. Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- L'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACSEPO)
- Association Franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)